Palestinian support for peace dropping

OCCUPIED JERUSALEM (AP) - A Palestinian survey of amtudes occupied Jerusalem (AP) — A Palestinian survey of artitudes towards the peace process released Friday shows a marked drop in support for the agreement giving Palestinians autonomy in the Gazz Strip and West Bank region of Jericho. Of those surveyed, a little over 45 per cent support the poll indicated that almost 15 per cent had no opinion. The answers collected Thursday showed a marked change from a similar poll taken Sept. 23. immediately after the Israelis and the Palestinians signed the accord in Washington. Then, nearly 69 per cent supported the agreement, nearly 28 opposed it and over three per cent bad no opinion. The 1,622 respondents interviewed were not asked to specify why they were for nr against the accord. But violence and the delays in implementing the accord are usually cited by residents of the occupied territories. The poll, conducted by the privately-run Jerusalem Media and Communication Centre, had a margin of error of three per cent. Polling is a relatively recent phenomenon among the Palestinian population, which has been reluctant to air political opinions in public.

جوردان تايمز يومية سياسية تصدر بالانجليزية عن المؤسسة الصحفية الأربنية «الراي»

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AMMAN SATURDAY, JANUARY 15, 1994, SHA'BAN 4, 1414

Bomb explosion in Tehran; 3 injured

NICOSIA (AP) - At least three people were injured in an explosion at a busy intersection in the centre of the Iranian capital, the Islamic Republic News Agency (IRNA) reponde. The blast shook Ferdowsi Square at around 8:30 p.m. (1730 GMT) Thursday, "erealing panic among the local residents and passersby," IRNA said. Windows challered at a contract of the residents and passersby." shanered at a nearby bookstore and sandwich shop, and an IRNA reporter saw three injured pedestrians ferried away by ambulance. There were reports that two small bombs had been placed in a corner garbage can, according to the news agency. The circular intersection is located about 600 metres from the British and Russian embassies, and about one kilometre from the former American legarinn. It is normally one of the most crowded places in Tehran, but the tRNA dispatch said that because of the late hour businesses were shut and there were relatively few people on the street. IRNA claimed Mujahedeen-e-Khalq rebels telephoned from their office in Paris to claim responsibility for the blast. But the Mujahedeen denied the

Price: Jordan 150 Fils

More rain forecast

AMMAN (J.T.) - More rain and thunderstorms are expected Saturday as a result of an air mass accompanying a depression now centred over Cyprus, according to the Meteorology Department. The department said a tangible drop in temperatures was expected with temperatures dropping down to four degrees centigrade in the billy areas and 16 degrees in the Gulf of Agaba. That heavy rain is expected in the eastern and southern regions of the Kingdom, which also witnessed the heaviest rainfall Friday. In Agaba, it will be cloudy with thunderstorms and showers of

Russia, U.S. urge peace in Mideast

cath o MOSCOW (AFP) — Russia and the United States appealed tion of Friday for a "just and lasting" at Compeace in the Middle East ahead of talks scheduled in Geneva warm Sunday between U.S. Presiance is dent Bill Clinton and Syrian ul in President Hafez Al Assad. "The Russian Federation and Funn the United States, recognisiog their special responsibility as co-sponsors of the Middle East peace process, reiterate their firm commitment to achieving the goal of a comprehensive. - La just and lasting peace in the middle East, Mr. Clinton and i Char Russian President Boris Yeltrth hav sin said in a joint declaration t leads issued at the end of summit ig he talks bere. The declaration unia also hailed progress achieved with between Jordan and Israel in peace talks and voiced hope and that Lebanon and Syria would below yield positive results during their upcoming round of talks.

Duma elects hardliner as its speaker speaker

MOSCOW (AFP) - Proruna communist legislator Ivan Ribengle kin was Friday clected speaker of Russia's lower house of parliament, the State Duma, the electoral commission said. Mr. Dez Ribken of the pro-communist Agrarian Party won 223 votes Man for with 111 deputies voting against, giving him the minimum number of votes required ill wir to win the speaker's chair in " the 450-seat chamber. Six seats have not been filled in the new lower chamber of parliament. mints. He easily defeated bis nitranationalist challenger Yuri ed " Vlasov, a former weightlifterturned-writer, who garnered 10 votes for and 311 against. Around 80 deputies boycotted the vote.

Khartoum wants ceasefire in south

KHARTOUM (AFP) - A ceasefire between Sudanese government troops and south-ern rebels is needed for progress in a new round of peace talks according to Minister for For Peace and Development Abdullah Deng Nyai. "A ceasin a efire is needed (positively) to with affect the negotiations" launched on the initiative of four neighbouring countries, Mr. Deng Nyal said on Sudanese We radio on his return from preiminary talks in Nairobi. "Evpulls erything is negotiable but for the unity of Sudan," Mr. Deng Nyai, a Muslim southerner said with regard to the peace initiative launched by Kenya, Erit-

Clarke to resign if wrongdoing in found

LONDON (AFP) - Chancelor of the Exchequer Kenneth Clarke has pledged to resign if an official inquiry concerning British arms sales to Iraq found him responsible for any wrongdoing. Mr. Clarke made the statement on British television. I believe what I did was lawful I believe what I did was in the interests of justice. I believe that will be quite quickly established in the inquiry," he said, pledging to step down should the enquiry find otherwise. Mr. Clarke is under questioning in connection over official documents that were barred from release when he was British home secretary during the so-called Matrix-Churchill trial in 1992

Ukraine signs accord to scrap all its nuclear arms

Trilateral deal crowns Clinton-Yeltsin summit; U.S., Russia to redirect missiles away from each other

MOSCOW (Agencies) -- Russia and the United States claimed "victory" Friday with a treaty on Ukraine's nuclear disarmament and vowed to build a new strategic partnership under sweeping security and economic accords tailored to strengthen Russian reformers.

The presidents of the two former cold war rivals also ordered their armed forces to redirect long-range nuclear missiles away from each other's cities and pledged to work together to enhance security "From Vancouver to Vladivostok.'

"This is our great victory, Russian President Boris Yeltsin told U.S. President Bill Clinton after they were joined by Ukrainian President Leonid Kravchuk to sign a treaty under which Ukraine pledged to surrender all its nuclear

weapons by the year 2001. The treaty, signed at the Kremlin by the three presidents, was the centerpiece of a two-day summit and marked a major diplomatic breakthrough for both the United States and Russia which feared the emergence of another nuclear power in Europe. ·

At a joint news conference following a series of formal signing ceremonies, both the U.S. and Russian leaders stressed that the treaty on Ukraine would augment global security and was in the interest of the

Ukrainian people.
"1 am fully satisfied," Mr.
Clinton said. "1 assure you 1 intend to maintain ao intense personal involvement" in the three-way negotiations that produced the treaty. President Kravchuk said be

was satisfied with the deal. But the three-sided pact faces stiff opposition at home. Russia and Ukraine already appear to disagree on bow much uranium Ukraine will get back from the deadly warheads dismantled under the pact.

Nationalist leader Vyacheslav Chornovil was quick to condemn the Moscow agreement, with accusations directed at Mr. Kravchuk.

"Kravchuk's actions are treason," he told reporters in the Ukrainian capital Kiev. "It is shameful capitulation ... the two superpowers, Russia and the United States, are joining forces to bring Ukraine to its knees."

nent, pro-communist parlia-mentarian Alexander Moroz, said the Ukrainian parliament might veto the decision as damaging to Ukraine's nation-

But Mr. Kravchuk, speaking at a Moscow news conference after signing the landmark deal, said parliament did not need to ratify the deal.

Under their agreement, Ukraine agrees to transfer at least 200 nuclear warheads to Russia within 10 months and turn over the rest of its nuclear stockpile "in the shortest possi-

The White House released a statement giving details of the trilateral accord.

To begin the process of compensating Ukraine for giving up nuclear weapons on its soil, Russia will provide Ukraine within 10 months with fuel assemblies for nuclear power stations containing 100 tonnes of low-enriched uranium.

"By the same date, at least 200 nuclear warheads from SS-19 and SS-24 missiles will be transferred from Ukraine to Russia for dismantling," the statement said.

The United States will pro-Another Kravchuk oppo-, vide \$60 million as an advance

payment to Russia, to be deducted from payments due to Russia under a contract covering the reprocessing of highly enriched uranium taken from warbeads from Russia, Ukraine, Belarus and Kazakh-

U.S. officials said the total value of uranium from all four countries, once it is converted into nuclear reaction fuel, is estimated at \$12 billion over 20 years, with Ukraine's share \$1 billion.

The \$1 billion the United States is providing will be repaid once the uranium is sold on the civilian reactor fuel market.

Ukrainian officials say they also expect the deal to pave the way for a \$1.5 billion loan from the International Monetary Fund and around \$700 million from the World Bank. Mr. Clinton and Mr. Yeltsin

also signed a "Moscow declaration" in which Russia confirmed its intention to build ties with the North Atlantic Treaty Organisation (NATO) under the U.S. "Partnership for Peace" initiative.

That plan opens the door for

(Continued on page 10)

Kravchuk join hands Friday after signing a U.S. President Bill Clinton, Russian President nuclear disarmament agreement (AFP photo) Boris Yeltsin and Ukrainian President Leonid King, Clinton meet on Friday to review peace talks, ties

By a Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — His Majesty King Hussein is scheduled to meet with U.S. President Bill Clinton on Jan. 21 for talks on issues ranging from the Middle East peace process to American-Jordanian relations, officials here and in Washington said.

The King, who left for London last week for a short stay in Britain, is expected to head for Rochester, Minnesota, soon for medical checkups at the Mayo Clinic. Following the check-up, the King will spend a few days in the state of Colorado on a private visit before proceeding to Washington to meet Mr. Clinton.

Prime Minister Abdul Salam Majali and several members of his Cabinet are expected to head for. Washington this week to join the King in his talks with Mr.

It will be the second White House meeting between the King and Mr. Clinton. The two leaders met first in June.

Among the issues that are expected to be discussed between the King and President Clinton are the course of the peace process, U.S.-Jordan economic cooperation and military ties, officials said.

The king will brief the president on the progress of negotiations between Jordan and Israel, and reiterate that there cannot be any signing of a peace agreement separate from an overall accord addressing all the four tracks of the Arab-Israeli negotiations launched in Madrid in October 1991.

All indications are that Sunday's summit in Geneva between President Clinton and Syrian President Hafez Al Assad could produce a major breakthrough to lift the logjam in the Syrian-Israeli track of negotiations,

and, by extension, advance the Lebanese-Israeli peace talks.

As such, analysts say, the King's meening with President Clinton comes at a crucial stage in the quest for peace in the Middle East in that he would have known by then the result of the U.S.-Syrian summit by Jan. 21 and could formulate Jordan's next steps accordingly.

King Hussein was in touch with President Assad over the phone on Thursday. Reports from Damascus said the two leaders exchanged views on the current moves in the peace process and means to advance the Arab-Israeli negotiations.

In the meantime, it was reported from Washington that the next round of Arab-Israeli peace talks would begin there on Jan. 24 (see separate story).

On the bilateral front, the (Continued on page 5)

Five Palestinians and Israeli killed

HEBRON, occupied West Bank (Agencies) — Troops killed five Palestinians while an Israeli was stabbed to death in a flare up of violence in the occupied territories, military and Palestinian source

Soldiers shot dead foor members of Hamas, the Islamic Resistance Movement, after surrounding the house where they were holed up here on Thursday night.

In another incident, a Hamas member stabbed to death a recent Russian immigrant on the border of the Gaza Strip and wounded another Israeli on Friday before troops shot him dead.

The house at the centre of the fighting in Hebron lay

burned out on Friday.
One of those who died was Abdul Salim Amio Sbabana, leader for the Hebron region of Izzedin Al Qassam, the

armed wing of Hamas. Shabana escaped with fellow militants from military prison on Nov. 12, an army spokes-

man said. The security service Sbin Beth found out where he was hiding when they captured two other fugitives earlier Thursday in the village of Idna, near

Troops dispatched to the house came under fire, and one of them was slightly hurt. The army's version of eveots was disputed by the bouse's owner, Tawfik Karameh, 31, who said he saw the whole

operation. "The house was rented to four engineering students from Hebron technical college," be said. "They were eating on the balcony when shooting broke

"They didn't fire a shot. But the soldiers who surrounded the house didn't hold back. An hour and a balf later one of the occupants came out with his hands in the air and was shot dead by the soldiers." Other neighbours said two

tried to surrender, emerging from the house with their hands in the air about 90 mioutes into the siege and were gunned down. Blood stained the dirt in front of the house. The neighbours said the

with flares and belicopters overhead. "It was like they opened a warfront here," said Mobammad Ali Kawasmi, a neigh-

army turned night into day

A belicopter unleashed (Continued on page 10)

Jordan, PLO draft security agreement

AMMAN (R) — The Palestine Liberation Organisation PLO concluded a draft security accord with Jordan aimed at enhancing its negotiating position in stalled talks on an Israeli withdrawal from the Gaza Strip and Jericho, Palestinian security officials said on Friday.

"We reached on Thursday a draft security accord which sets the principles of future coordination on issues of borders, training and exchange of security information with the Jordanians," said a senior PLO security official, engaged in the two days of talks of a joint committee on borders and security, which ended on

Thursday. He said the agreement "by laying the basis for future security coordination, aimed at enhancing the PLO's negotiating position with the Israelis, by coordinating our own side's positions."

Differences over control of border crossings between the Gaza Strip and Egypt and be-tween Jericho and Jordan have delayed the pullout of Israeli troops originally planned for

"It (the accord) will now be presented to the political leaderships of both sides for ratification," said the official, who asked not to be named. The accord sets the basis for strong security cooperation during Palestinian self-rule between a Palestinian authority

in self-rule areas and Jordan, PLO security officials said. The security committee is one of seven teams trying to define future links between

Jordan and Palestinian selfrule areas. The talks, the second since October, were co-chaired by Major Fakhri Sbaggoura, bead of the PLO's military intelli-

gence, and Jordan's Abdullah Toukan, an adviser to King Hussein.. No date has been set for the next meeting.
"We agreed on the principles ... and the followup talks will define the right mechanisms for enhancing this long

term security coordination," another PLO security official added. PLO officials told Reuters the two-day talks reviewed the

training programme of over 2,000 Palestine Liberation Army (PLA) members. They are expected to police areas to be turned over by

Israel for Palestinian self-rule, but their entry schedule has been upset by the delay in implementing the accord.

Bilaterals resume on January 24

WASHINGTON (Agencies) - Arab-Israeli peace talks are expected to resume in Washington Jan. 24 although the United States has yet to issue formal invitations, U.S. officials and Middle East diplomats said Thursday.

The United States is anxious to renew the peace process and expects to generate new momentum from President Bill Clinton's meeting Sunday with Syrian President Hafez Al Assad in Geneva. The talks beginning Jan. 24

will be between the heads of the Syrian, Lebanese, Jordanian and Palesnnian delegations and their Israeli counterparts. State department spokes-

woman Christine Shelly said Israeli-Palestinian talks would take place in Washington, even though these parties are also involved in intense negotiations in the Middle East aimed at implementing an accord they signed last September.

She said the talks would begin in the second half of January but the exact date was still not set and formal invitations had not been sent out. "We've said before ... the

talks are going to start again in the second half of January and that is still certainly very much the timeframe," she said. "No formal invitations to the parties have gone out that also identify the date."

Last week, Ambassador Dennis Ross, the U.S. coordinator for the Middle East peace negotiations, and members of the U.S. peace team met with the heads of the Syrian and Lebanese delegations in

(Continued on page 10)

House votes today on '94 draft budget

By Suhair Obeidat Special to the Jordan Times

AMMAN — The Lower House of Parliament is expected today to endorse the 1994 draft budget following a four-day session during which a total of 70 deputies would have taken the floor to alternately criticise and praise the budget.

Before taking a vote on the JD 1.487 billion draft budget, the House will listen to the government's answer to the lawmakers' reports and demands, which mainly included requests for reduction in current expenditure and more services in their constituencies.

According to the Constitution, the lawmakers cannot ask for an increase to the expenditure but could seek the shifting of some allocations to other

During Thursday's session 22 deputies delivered speeches. The general atmosphere was relaxed and sometimes even monotonous with redundant remarks and lengthy speeches.

Although some deputies announced they were speaking on behalf of other colleagues, like the case of Karak Deputy Abdul Hadi Majali who said he was representing the National Action Front with 17 members, those included in the list took the floor individually, to express their Opinion on the budget.

Deputy Aref Batayneh (Irbid) also said he co-drafted his speech with the other 18 deputies representing the governorate.

Some deputies reiterated the claim of others who spoke on Tuesday and Wednesday that the draft budget was not "deficit-free" as Minister of Finance Sami Gammoh termed

Islamic Action Front (1AF) deputy Bassam 'Emoush asserted that the draft budget was "misleading," among other things, "because one-third of the budget is grants and loans from an unidentified

Mr. 'Emoush requested that the telephones of depunes be considered "official," i.e exempt from fees, "because they are for the general interest and that of the citizens.'

Mr. 'Emoush said that the Telecommunications Corporanon (TCC) and Royal Jordan. the nanonal carrier, "should be kept under the government's control and not be given to the private sector and their files should be investigated for cases of corruption and stealing."

Mr. 'Emoush requested that the renovation of the Saladin pulpit in Al-Aqsa mosque in Jerusalem should be stopped and the "money allocated for this purpose be channeled to support people in the occupied

Toujan Faisal (Amman), said the draft budget reflects the "government's political rather than economic policies, in view of the purely political circumstances which prevailed when it was drafted.

Ms. Faisal said that the government's estimates of poverty and unemployment are "untrue... and are a clear indication of purposeful cover-nps.'

Mafraq Deputy Mohammad Abu Aleem said that the budget should have taken into consideration the peace process and political developments "which will cause important changes in the economies of all countries in the region.'

Dr. Abu Aleem said that the (Continued on page 5)

Holst to be laid to rest on Jan. 22

By Kathrine Rath in Osla with agency dispatches

FOREIGN MINISTER Johan Joergen Holst, who died after suffering a stroke on Thursday. will be buried on Jan. 22, the foreign ministry said Friday. Political leaders from several

countries will be present, the ministry said without giving any names. Palestine Liberation Orga-

nisation (PLO) representative in Norway Omar Kitmitto confirmed that PLO Chairman Yasser Arafat will come to Oslo to attend the funeral. Norwegian media have said

Mr. Arafat and Israeli Foreign Minister Shimon Peres, both personal friends of Mr. Holst, have expressed a wish to attend.

Among the many tributes to Mr. Holst was one on Friday from Egyptian Foreign Minis-

"sorry and saddened" by his death.

Mr. Holst, 56, died from an apparent stroke in hospital on Thursday. Doctors had believed his condition was improving after an earlier stroke in December

Norway hosted at least 14 secret meetings between Israel and the PLO last year to pave the way for their accord on limited Palestinian autonomy in the Gaza Strip and West

Bank town of Jericho. Mr. Holst died peacefully in his bed at rebabilitation centre outside Oslo, early Thursday He had been hospitalised a

few days before Christmas after having suffered a heart attack. He was believed to be on his way to recovery and was himself optimistic about the future when he suffered a new

Mr. Holst will be remembered for his extraordinary efforts to bring peace to the conflict-ridden Middle East. Through secret meetings in Oslo and Paris and, later, through shuttle diplomacy in the region, he lead the negotiations which resulted in the historic peace treaty between the Palestinians and the Israelis, signed on Sept. 13 in Washing-

In an interview given to the Norwegian press in September, shortly before the signing of the accord, Mr. Holst expressed his strong feelings for the task he was performing as mediator. He said that he felt a sense of humbleness and a gratitude for being part of such

path-breaking events. But it was evident that the long and strenuous workingdays filled with numerous meetings and frequent travelling were beginning to take its



toll on the foreign minister, who was also busy performing his normal day-to-day duties. Many weeks had passed since

(Continued on page 10)



Lebanon could be big loser from peace, Khaddam says

BEIRUT (Agencies) — Lebanon could be the big loser in the race for economic domination of the Middle East once peace is established with Israel. Syrian Vice-President Abdul Halim Khaddam said in remarks quoted by Lebanese newspaper Friday.

The vice-president told members of Beirut Chamber of Commerce and Industry that Lebanon was best placed to challenge Israel for regional economic supremacy in peace-

But it was likely to lose the contest because Western in-terests favoured Israel, he said. "In the event of peace in the region Israel will try to estab-

lish its hegemony over economic and tourism resources and other resources." Mr. Khaddam told a chamber of commerce delegation that visited Damascus Thursday.

"The Arab World will become a market where Israel. the concessionaire of big international firms, will dispose of its products," he said.

"The big loser could be Lebanon and those who hold large amounts of capital, because Lebanon is the country best placed to compete with

Some Lebanese officials also foresee economic rivalry with Israel but say a peace settlement will substantially boost investment in Lebanon, speed its post-war recovery and help it regain its role as a major Middle East financial and recreational centre.
Mr. Khaddam said Lebanon

could recover rapidly due to the people's adaptability and experience. But he came close to accusing Israel of trying to sabotage this recovery because of the economic challenge Lebanon represented,

"That is why there are attempts to create tension in Lebanon and these attacks cannot be separated from this context," said Mr. Khaddam. 'The recent attacks... all definitely serve Israel's in-

A car-bomb last month -Lebanon's first in two years wrecked the headquarters of the Falangist Party in Beirut. killing three people and been a series of arson attacks on liquor stores in two other cities.

Mr. Khaddam said that if Arab countries had worked on forming a common market. they would have achieved the unity to confront Israel.
"The problem of we Arab



Abdul Halim Khaddam

countries is that we each hehave as if we are 'the' great power." he said.

Svria and Lebanon have signed a series of economic cooperation agreements and are aiming for the formation of a common market with Jordan,

"If Lebanon and Syria achieve this, it would only be a modest affair, but I am sure it would serve the interests of the two countries as well as of all Arab countries, and we are open to all ideas in this direc-

tion," Mr. Khaddam said. Israel meanwhile urged Syria to use the summit with President Bill Clinton next week to prove its readiness for peace and allow for a breakthrough in stalled negotiations.

Talks between Israel and Syria broke down last year with Damascus insisting that Israel withdraw from the Golan Heights as a prerequisite to peace and Israel demanding Syria outline peace terms before territory was negotiated.

Israel has said it is prepared to partially withdraw from the strategic Golan Heights.

"If the Syrians do come and show that they are ready for full peace... there is no doubt that we will have to draw conclusions vis-a-vis the Golan Heights." Foreign Minister Shimon Peres said on army

"But all this we will be able to discuss only when the Svrians come with clear unswers to four subjects: The character of the negotiations, the dimension of the peace, the nature of

Lebanon." Mr. Peres added. Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin sent a similar message last week to President Hafez Al Assad, who is to meet with Mr. Clinton on Sunday. Jan. · 16 in Geneva, Switzerland.

The new U.S. admbassador to Israel, Edward P. Djerejian. said the summit's results would hopefully stimulate the stalled Syrian-Israeli peace talks.

"It is our intent and our hope... that this meeting will provide a substantive hasis to move the negotiations for-ward," Mr. Djerejian said after presenting his credentials to President Ezer Weizman.

He added that immediately following the Clinton-Assad meeting. The United States would brief Israeli leaders. Mr. Peres also urged Syria to agree to a more quiet channel

for the peace talks.

"The negotiations cannot be limited to one narrow channel full of microphones, that actually becomes a pointless debate. The negotiations must be open, include higher ranks and quieter channels, so that we will really be able to take off from the present point. Mr. Peres said on Israel

Syria has so far publicly refused meetings outside the Washington venue.

Talks between the heads of the Israeli. Palestinian. Lebanese, Syrian and Jordanian delegations are to resume in Washington Jan. 24, sources there said Wednesday.

Mr. Rabin has voiced skepticism that Sunday's summit will result in a change in Syria's attitude to Israel.

"I don't expect Syria to soften its position and reduce the price it is demanding in ex-change for peace." Mr. Rahin told a Labour Party meeting late Thursday in Tel Aviv. Christian churches in Syria

held special prayers on Friday for the success of the summit. Worshippers prayed for the talks to bring a just and comprehensive peace in the Middle

East, church officials said.

Lebanese President Elias Hrawi saw Friday President Assad will voice all Arab demands, especially Lebanon's, in his meeting with U.S. Clinton in Genea.

"President Assad is not going to Geneva to negotiate and defend the Golan. He is going to defend all the Arab causes and at their forefront Lebanon before Syria," Mr. Hrawi told members of the Lebanese Journalists' Union.

will defend all the Arab rights," added Mr. Hrawi. Beirut closely coordinates its

Middle East peace moves with Damascus, whose 35,000 soldiers deployed over two-thirds of Lebanon make it the country's main foreign power brok-



'BATTLEFRONT': A Palestinian boy passes by a demolished house in Hebron which was des-

to the killing of four Palestinians (see story on

Prospect of revived bloody chaos pushes Somalis to seek peace

By Julian Bedford Reuter

MOGADISHU - After three years of civil war, many Somalis yearn for a government ---

any government.
With their country devastated, hundreds of thousands of people killed or maimed and more than one million turned into refugees, the prospect of more fighting is pushing the country's leaders into a serious

search for a negotiated peace. Ali Mahdi Mohammad, self-styled president of the Horn of Africa country, told Reuters: "People are telling me they would prefer a loose or corrupt government to no government

He said his supporters in the so-called "group of 12" political organisations were ready to talk and compromise with the four actions of powerful clan leader Mohammad Farah Aideed's Somali National

Alliance (SNA).

Somalis' minds have been focused by fears of renewed civil war after U.S. troops, the backbone of the U.N. force in the country, leave for good on March 31. The Italians and French

have already gone. Other West European countries respected, if not liked, by Somalis for their professionalism plan to be out at or before the same date. On street corners and market places. Somalis now animatedly debate future possihi-

lities. Some even say the dieta-

torships of old were not so bad. "People just want some sta-bility, security," said Abdi, a driver with a humanitarian organisation.

Somalia has been without a government since rehels, main-ly loyal to Mr. Ali Mahdi or his main rival Aideed, toppled dictator Mohammad Siad Barre in

They and other rival warlords then turned their guns on cach other, fuelling a famine which killed 300,000 people. The famine brought first the humanitarian aid agencies and

then a United Nations task force in an international mis-sion to end both starvation and Analysts say the rival factions need now to understand

they could lose popular support if they return to fighting once U.S. and other Western forces leave Somalia, This has brought a new

urgency to the search for a brokered peace, strengthening the hand of those who argue that Somalis should be left alone to find "a Somali solution to a Somali problem. Mohammad Sheikh Ollo

"Dos," secretary for external affairs for the Somali Patriotic Movement, one of the factions in the group of 12, said: "The G12 have combined to act together and they are continuing the dialogue with

The United Nations Operation in Somalia (UNOSOM) ity general tried - and failed to bring the two sides together, most recently at talks in Addis Ababa,

The Organisation of African Unity (OAU) has asked Kenya, Eritrea, Ugunda, Ethiopia and Sudan Io seck a peaceful solution. Diplomats say their discussions in Nairobi appear to be producing positive results.

Issa Mobammad Siad, SNA secretary for external affairs, told Reuters: "It is my belief that the problems of Somalia will be solved in Nairobi and solved soon. On another level, the imam

nf Hirab, a respected religious leader also known as the imam of Abgal, is using traditional Somali means to find peace between Mr. Ali Mahdi's Abgal clan and Gen. Aideed's Habr Gedir. The imam has no political

aspirations and is not seen as a rival by the warlords. That gives him a potential edge in a country where suspicion is invariably stronger than trust. His non-political talks seek

to end clan rather than factional disputes. They centre on the basics of Somali life - prohlems of shared wells, grazing rights, blood fouds.

Experts on Somalia say these talks are just as important as the political discussions. They say a political agreement between Gen. Aideed and Mr. Ali Mahdi could prove shortlived if there is no peace between the clans.

Iraq restates rejection pour of one-time oil export pe h UNITED NATIONS (AP) — Iraq's deputy prime minimum to allow a control of the larger o

Iraq reiterated its refusal of a U.N. plan to allow a one-time. \$1.6 billion oil sale to raise money for badly needed aid. saying Thursday that the deal would violate Iraq's suvereignty. Iraqi diplomats also accused

the United States of blocking any U.N. move to lift a U.N. oil embargo on Iraq. They said Iraq had made progress in meeting U.N. conditions for lifting the embargo. in a statement Thursday.

Iraq repeated that 400,000 people have died since the imposition of oil and other trade sanctions in August 1991. The claim could not be con-

firmed, but humanitarian organisations say that lack of food. medicine and supplies has caused widespread suffering. malnutrition and many deaths.

The Security Council is to review the total trade emhargo against Iraq next week. But U.N. diplomats privately predict the embargo will remain in place for at least another six months.

The Iraqi diplomats, speaking on condition of anonymity. repeated Baghdad's refusal to discuss a small, one-time oil

They told the Associated Press that strict U.N. supervision of the oil sale and distribution of food aml supplies would be an unacceptable violation of Iraq's sovereignty. Iraq has made similar arguments in the

The diplomats also said

Iraq's deputy prime minister.
Tareq Aziz. would not visit
New York this month, as had been expected. Instead, Iraq seeks a meeting in Baghdad in late January or February and Assembly. U.N. weapons experts to discuss terms for lifting the enibargo, they said.

The diplomats said Iraq still the role of the farmers not know experts. does not know exactly what where by Social Deve U.N. weapons officials want before they will certify to the that the Security Council that Iraq has satisfied terms of the ceasefire. as simed at increa

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The council imposed a total trade embargo, including oil, after Iraq invaded Kuwait in August 1990. But the council's ceasefire resolution says the oil emhargo may be lifted after mens in society.

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mens in a society. Iraq satisfies certain weaponsrelated conditions.

Before the council can lift the off embargo. U.N. weapons experts must certify they believe Iraq has dismantled its prohibited nuclear, chemical, biological and ballistic weapons programme, and destroyed prohibited weapons and equipment. Experts also must certify they are satisfied with Iraq's compliance in long-term monitoring of military industries to ensure Iraq does not

reacquire the arms. The United States and Brirain have resisted any public recognition by the council of Iraq's cooperation. In a statement Thursday, Iraq called the sanctions unjustified and said the United States and Britain were trying "again to impose their own political view on the decision of the council."

NEWS IN BRIEF

Cyprus holds a granny on kidnap charge

NICOSIA (R) - A court in Cyprus has remanded a Norwegian grandmother in custody on suspicion of kidnapping her seven-year-old grandson. Police said that Helen Soleme Bylwnt, 50, would appear in court in the coastal resort of Larnaca to answer the charge following a request from the Norwegian government. The case is being brought by Ms. Bylwnt's former son-in-law, the boy's father. Police said Ms. Bylwnt and her grandson, Kim, had been living in Cypros

Pakistan to compensate Turkish firm

ANKARA (R) - Pakistan offered Turkish Bayindir Holding a new project of up to \$150 million or compensation on Thursday to offset losses from the cancellation of a motorway project. Anatolian news agency said. They have brought offers like a new project worth \$100 to \$150 million

Turkish State Minister Nazif Kurt told the agency after talks with a delegation headed by Pakistani State Minister Shahid Hassan Khan in Ankara. Mr. Kurt said Pakistan was ready to compensate Bayindir's loss unless the company accepted the new offers. Pakistan abandoned last month the \$644 million project to build a motorway from Islamahad to Peshawar. Mr. Kurt said Turkey sought continuation of the project with Bayindir. "I think Pakistan will consider this," he added. He said Bayindir was likely to ask for compensation instead of undertaking a new project.

Tunisian jailed for murder, rape

TUNIS (AFP) - A Tunis court handed out prison sentences totalling 30 years to a young Tunisian convicted of killing a Swedish woman and raping another in Stockholm four years ago, the press reported. Mohamed Al Aid Rebaiyeh was sentenced Tuesday to 20 years in prison for strangling Nina Eliasson, 22, in August 1989, and to a further 10 years for raping another woman, whose name was not given in court. the same year. He attacked the first woman after she had attempted to throw him out of her apartment, the prosecution said. The second woman was attacked as she was walking in the street after nightfall. Rebaiyeh fled Sweden, where he had gone looking for work, some time after committing his crimes. Tunisia and Sweden are not bound by an extradition treaty. Relatives of both women were present at the trial.

Gunmen kill 3 policemen in Egypt

ASSIYUT, Egypt (R) - Militants shot dead three policemen at a traffic checkpoint in southern Egypt on Thursday then fled in a car they seized at gunpoint, security sources said. The gnomen struck near the town of Al Qusiva, 300 kilometres south of Cairo, in Assiyut province, pumping 31 bullets into one of their victims, the sources said. Police suspected the militant Al Gama'a Al Islamiyah (Islamic Group) of carrying out the attack. The sources said the gunmen attacked the checkpoint on the main road north to Cairo at 2:15 p.m. (1215 GMT). Two of the policemen were killed instantly and the third died in hospital. The gunmen took two rifles and a pistol from the dead men. Police searched for the attackers but made

Syria looks at Assad-Clinton summit with optimism will be an opportunity to ex-

By Issam Hamza Reuter

DAMASCUS — Syrian President Hafez Al Assad, backed by powerful Arab oil states, heads for a summit with U.S. President Bill Clinton optimistic of a breakthrough in peace talks with Israel, officials and analysts

For the first time Monday, Syria joined seven other Arab states, including pro-Western Saudi Arabia and Egypt, in terming Septem-ber's Israel-Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) deal for limited Palestinran autonomy in the occupied territortes as the first step on the path to peace.

The upbeat mood was reflected in a statement by Synan Foreign Minister Farouk Al Sharaa who told the Arab ministers in Damascus that Syria expected important results from the summit that would reflect positively on the wbole region.

The summit should bear important results as we hope," Mr. Sharaa said during the meeting which expressed full support for Mr. Assad at the talks with Mr. Clinton. Syria had previously criti-

cised the PLO's peace deal with Israel and has had its own problems in trying to achieve its demands in negotiations with the Jewish state. Damascus held 11 rounds of talks with Israel as part of the U.S-led by peace talks

without achieving tangible results. it threatened to boycott the next round but agreed during a a visit by U.S. Secretary of State Warren Christopher to go back to the

negotiating table.
Officials and the analysts say Mr. Assad's main concem will be to get Mr. Clinton's backing for the return of the Golao Heights, a strategic plateau occupied by Israel in the 1967 Middle East

Mr. Assad will also back demands by his ally and neighbour, Lebanon, for Israel to get out of the southern part of the country, and will insist on the need for a comprehensive, not piecemeal, solution to the 45year-old Arab-Israeli con-

flict.
"Syria believes that lasting in the peace and stability in the region cannot be achieved without a comprehensive settlement.

without a comprehensive settlement. Practical examples prove this fact." one Syrian official said.

"Assad offered Israel full peace in return for its full

withdrawai from the Golan.

and the meeting with Clinton

Yesterday's high temperatures: Amman 12, Aqaba 17, Humidity readings:

Amman 90 per cent. Agaha 95 per

USEFUL TELEPHONE

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plain what that full peace will mean, when he gets assurances of Israeli withdrawal, one analyst said. Israeli leaders, in exchange

for withdrawal, wants Syna first to commit itself to full normalisation of ties, includmg establishment of diplomatic links, trade cooperation and open border. Syria's readiness to recing-

nise Israel explicitly and to establish diplomatic ties has never been clarified publicly although Vice-President Abdul Halim Khaddam said in remarks earlier this month that the issue of future lies was an issue for negotiations.

The official media in Syria, reflecting optimism about the summit, said Mr. Clinton would not have arranged the meeting had he nothing new to offer to Syria to achieve a breakthrough.

Mr. Assad has made sever-

JORDAN TIMES DAILY GUIDE AND CALENDAR

al goodwill gestures ahead of the summit, including help to a U.S. team seeking information on Israel servicemen who went missing in 1982 in Lebanon, where Syria is themain poweroroker. The president also ordered

that Syrian Jews wanting to

emigrate get their visas more quickly. More than 500 of ome 85tl still in Syria have received visas. The remainder are due get theirs this One shadow over U.S.-Syrian relations is the presence in Syria of Palestinian guerrilla groups whom the United

States views as "terrurists" and who oppose the Middle East peace process. Syria says they are resistance fighters battling occupa-tion of their land by Israel. Washington has also urged Daniascus to curh the groups'



the Americans that these groups should be vieweil as rn opposition like the Israeli rejection of the PLO-Israel opposition which is much peace deal. Damascus told

JORDAN TELEVISION Tel: 773111-19

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	Les Adventuries De L'Espace
7:41	L'Ecole Des Fans
8:30	Beaumanboir
	News in French
	Ushuaia
	The Fanelli Boys
11-00	Talk Show
:1:30	The Campbells
<u>:2:00</u>	News in English
2:20	Feature Film: "Relentless/Mmd of A
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Dr. Nasser (brahim	
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AIRPORT This information is supplied by Royal Jordanian (RJ) information department at the Queen Alia International Airport Tel. (00153200-5, where a

Royal Jordanian (RJ) Flights (Terminal 1)

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23:55 Damascus, Paris (AF) HUAZ RAILWAY TRAIN Dep. Amman 8:81a.m. every Monday Arr. Damaseus 5:00 p.m. every Monday Dep. Damaseus 7:30 a.m. every Sunday Arr. Apanan 5:00 p.m. every Sunday MARKET PRICES

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Sqour says role of the family to be highlighted this year

ance of 1994 as the International Year of the Family, as called for by the United Na-tions General Assembly, Jordan will this year organise and carry out a number of functions and activities designed to highlight the role of the family in the Jordanian society.

The announcement was made here by Social Development Minister Mohammad Sqour, who noted that the dedication of the year to the family was aimed at increasing awareness among the public about family issues and to underline the importance of velpo family links with socioeconomic and demographic developments in society.

Declaring that Jordan has joined the world nations in observing the International Day of the Family, the minister told a press conference that ind this year there will be an encouragement of various social institutions caring for the family affairs to promote family activities and to benefit from various international experiences pertaining to women, children, the youth, the aged and the handicapped persons.

"The dedication is also meant to improve and highight cooperation among various alledte governments and international organisations towards promoting the activities of families and their members," said Dr.

> His Majesty King Hussein announced Tuesday that Jordan would be observing 1994 as the International Year of the Family noting that the family constitutes the basic unit of the Jordanian society. Formally inaugurating the



Social Development Minister Mohammad Squur (wearing glasses at the bead of the table) listens to a question from a journalist during a

press conference the minister held Thursday (Petra photo)

noted that the Kingdom has In observance of the year been keen on implementing Arab and international covenants and on providing the appropriate legislative and administrative guarantees which contribute to the advancement of the family. At his press conference, Dr.

Sqour referred the King's message as "providing guidelines for the government" and noted that activities during the year would be implemented with the help of the National Committee on Women's Affairs which was set up two months

The committee's main concern, the minister noted, was to spread awareness about family issues among the public concerning social, economic

1994 as the International Year of the Family, the committee is planning a cultural festival with a number of activities and programmes, which would involve school children, cultural centres and other sectors, during which a number of productive families and a number of organisations concerned about family affairs would be hon-

announced. Furthermore, the national committee is planning a general exhibition displaying products by limited-income famihes with the purpose of supporting such projects that provide the needy families with additional income, Dr. Sqour

oured, the minister

and the private sector organisations ought to work out national policies and programmes aimed at mobilising the pottentials of the youth to enable them to shoulder responsibilities and embark on productive and creative work.

Special attention, said the King, should be given to the handicapped members of soci-

Noting that attention continues to be directed to the needy families and the handicapped, the minister told the press conference that the Ministry of Social Development will continue to enhance its programmes directed at alleviating the plight of the needy families and would continue to the drive to provide services to the handicapped

Today Arbor Day

By a Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — The first step towards the establishment of the Al Hussein National Park. near Abu Alanda, south east of Amman. starts today with the planting of thousands of trees in the course of the annual Arbor Day celebrations in the Kingdom.

The Ministry of Agriculture and the Municipality of Greater Amman have prepared the site, called Wadi Al Qattar a district near Abu Alanda, for this year's main tree-planting cele bration.

The park, which is 1247 dunums in area, will be planted with at least 100,000 trees.

Greater Amman Mayor Mamdouh Abbadi told the Jordan Times that, in the course of preparations for the celebration and through digging holes for the trees. a main spring was discovered in December sufficing the needs of the drip irrigation system in the whole park and saving the municipality the

Fertile hills and valleys that stretch in a narrow belt through the heart of the Kingdom that nearly 80 per cent of the total area of the country was desert land and only one per

cent of the area was covered by

forests, despite continued

age and thousands of people efforts over the years. were expected to plant trees in In a drive to involve private sector organisations to contri-The Ministry of Agriculture bute to the greening of the noted on the eve of the country, the ministry has anniversary, that has set up 12 reached agreements in the past stations to produce forest satwo years with 20 local firms to plings and fruit trees and has undertake the process of plantbuilt 12 towers to control fires ing trees in about 100 plots of in various forest areas. The lands within the Amman and ministry has also assigned fire the Balqa governorates, noted fighting teams to move speedithe statement.

Most of the tree planting projects were taking place on state owned lands and on the hills overlooking the Jordan Valley and along areas considered as essential to halt desertification and the encroachment of the desert from the

Noting that afforestation programmes started originally . with trees planted on 500 to 1000 dunums a year, the statement said that the figure rose . to 15,000 dunums in the 1960s . and 30,000 dunums in the

1970s. So far, forest trees have . been grown on 353,000 dunums through the efforts of the Ministry of Agriculture, it noted.

According to ministry statistics, fruit trees in Jordan now amount to one million which produced 361,000 tonnes of fruit in 1992.

According to the statistics. Jordan has 10 million dunums of pasture land which are used

International Year of the Family in Jordan, the King and demographic questions in In his address last Tuesday, the King said the government Expert sees privatisation as one way

to address Jordan's foreign debt By a Jordan Times

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Staff Reporter AMMAN — Privatising stateowned institutions could be. one of the means available to Jordan to address its foreign debt problem, but the move towards offering equity to foreign creditors should be coupled with internal reforms to make the offer attractive, according to a leading expert on privatisamillio :

Edgar Harrell, who now serves as a consultant on privatisation after leaving U.S. government service, said Thursday Jordan also had the right ingredients to seriously consider privatisation.

Dr. Harrell said he also believed that there is enough "political will" in Jordan towards accepting the concept of privatisation.

Addressing a group of jourars for malists, Dr. Harrell, who met count with Jordanian government officials and businessmen during a brief visit to Amman last week, said that he found a willingness among Jordanian officials to discuss privatisa-

> That, he said, is a positive first step since "if there is no political will, there will be no privatisation.'

However, Dr. Harrell cautioned, privatisation is notd. The a solution to any specific probments lem but a concept that could overhaul the economy and put it on a course towards recovery and growth. "It is no answer in itself, but it should be re-

viewed." Privatising government-

owned firms in an issue that has been talked about in Jordan for many years, but no real movement has been seen in this direction except the launching of a study on prospects for privatising the national car-

Dr. Harrell, who met with Central Bank of Jordan (CBJ) Governor Mohammad Saed Al Nabulsi and Royal Jordanian President Basel Jardaneh, a former finance minister, said Jordan had the human potential in terms of education expertise and the right climate in terms of a relatively low-level budget deficit and controlled inflation to consider privatisa-

But, he added, there is no "sense in transferring a public sector monopoly to private sector monopoly" by offering protection to the entity.

In the case of telecommunications, transport and airlines, which are in essence monopolies. "regulatory regimes" could be set up to ensure that the consumers get the best service. Specifically, Dr. Harrell cited the privatisation of telecommunications. where the government could attach certain conditions to the deal.

These conditions, he said. could inculde stipulations that the new entity will ensure that repairs are carried out and new connections are given within pre-determined time limits in addition to ensuring, for instance, that every village has a functional public telephone booth.

If, at the end of the period concessions, the new entity has not fulfilled these conditions, then the government could reserve the right for itself to take over the entity, he said.

According to Dr. Harrell, privatising state-owned firms will be beneficial to all concerned in the long term despite dislocation of workers and resistance from unions and interest groups.

Almost inevitably, privatisation of government-run come panies leads to layoffs simply because the state employs redundant and inefficient staff and the private sector addresses this problem by dismissing people to cut costs.

To address such problems. Dr. Harrell said, the government has to set up a "safety net" in consultations with unions and workers, including unemployment compensation through the social security systme. retraining opportunities. encouraging enterpreneurs in a free-market environment and removing barriers that dissuade investors.

The net beneficiaries of privatisation will be workers themselves since they would be able to reap better benefits from hard-work rather than straining under the heavy bureaucracy that is an inseparable element of any government-owned company.

Dr. Harrell said focus of privatisation should be on lossmaking enterprises so that the government will get rid of burdens on the budget as well as liquidity to use in settling debts and invest in new ventures.

Profit-making institutions are easier to be privatised than those which incur losses as a result of inefficient administration, he noted.

The many forms of privatisation include transfer of partial or full ownership, joint public and private sector financing of projects, granting concessions and separating specific areas of operation and splitting them among different operators, he

As an example, he cited Royal Jordanian, the national carrier, which is closely studying privatisation as a means to

address its debt burden. The airline is making an operational profit, only to see debt burden, and privatisation with a higher capital is suggested as the best avenue to solve the problem. Some of the airline's creditors could be given equity in exchange for

An international firm is con-

Dr. Harrell pointed out that

He conceded that the debt

wiped out because of the

ducting a study aimed at proposing the best mechanism for privatisation.

the affiliated operations of Royal Jordanian, such as the catering and cargo services, could be separated and offered as concessions to the private

burden of the airline was a negative factor in foreign investors' interest in acquiring equity in the carrier. Investor interest will have to be assentially based on the net worth of the airline, he said.

Amman 3/1/1994

Warning sent through the Notary Public at Amman

Warner: Al-Quds Open University, represented by its attorney Advocate Massoud Khalifeh, Amman. Addressee: Al-Quds Open University, United States of America, represented by Dr. Ahmad Jamal El Tamimi/ unknown domicile at Amman; last address of his domicile, Al-Quds Open University, Um El-Sumag, behind Mecca Street/Amman.

cost of bringing water by truck

He said the main celebration at Wadi Al Qattar would be

held under the Royal patron-

ly to deal with any fire which.

tbe ministry said, has been

causing a great loss to the

Noting that the efforts to

green the Kingdom date back

to the 1920s, the ministry said

country in recent years.

to irrigate the trees.

the new park.

Subject of the Warning

You are aware that on 3/10/1993 you have signed a cooperation agreement between you in your personal capacity, and in your capacity as representative of Al-Quds Open University in the United States of America, registered by the Notary public at Passaic county on 3/6/1993 according to the contents of the registration certificate presented by you, and between Al-Quds Open University represented by: Dr. Munther Salah its president at the time, provided that cooperation shall be effected by the use of distance learning methods adopted by the open universities and colleges in the USA according to the conditions mentioned in the Agreement.

As you have violated many conditions mentioned in the Agreement and as you did not abide to the terms of this agreement, the warner therefore states herebelow all the violations which you have committed and did not comply with the provisions of this agreement. The violations are as follows:

Firstly: Non-observance of the contents of paragraph (11-a) of the first supplement of the agreement which provides that the second party (the addressee) shall pay the first installment of (100) one hundred thousand dollars within fourty five days from signature of the agreement. In spite of the expiration of the period, you have failed to pay the amount required from and due on you.

Secondly: You have contravened this agreement by printing visiting cards Indicating that there is a regional office for the university at Amman, Jordan, and have distributed these cards without obtaining the warner's consent because this action constitutes a clear infringment upon the agreement concluded with you. Such an act led people to believe that there is possibility for accepting and registering students in Jordan. The addressee however is not entitled to do so.

Thirdly: You have issued leaflets without obtaining the approval of the wamer on that. Also you have intentionally, printed inaccurate information, and your relation with the warmer on these leaflets. Also you did not provide these leaflets with information denoting that the original philosophy of the university emanated from Al-Quds Open University and not from the American University as mentioned in the leaflet. In addition to the fact that you are not entitled to print anything in Jordan relating to the printed publications agreed upon under tha Agreement.

Fourthly: You have printed many study curricula in Jordan without any legitimate right and without obtaining the approval of the warner on that. Also you have cancelled the university's logo and removed it from covers of the study curricula which you have redesigned, reprinted and recopied without the prior consent of the

Fifthly: You have violated the agreement because you have submitted an application to the Ministry of the Higher Education in which you requested a permit for the American University and an approval for authorising it to exercise university activities in the Hashamite Kingdom of Jordan without notifying the wamer or obtaining its approval on that.

Sixthly: You have printed a great number of the University Curricula in Jordan without being granted this right in accordance with the agreement. You have omited the license granted by the Publication Department as well as the serial numbers and rights of the composer (Al-Quds Open University) and you have printed a large number of the curricula without signing them by the American Congress Library which constitutes a clear violation of paragraph (1) of Supplement No. (1).

Seventhly: Your non-observance of the request of the University to ensure the availability of a representative as a liaison officer in Jordan to get in touch with him and to follow up the implementation of the terms of this agreement with the warner, who will be holding an official power of attorney from an official authority.

Eighthiy: The University has sustained, as a result of his observing the obligation mentioned in this agreement, the following losses and damages:

They are by way of example and not limitation as follows:

1. The warner has been harmed by your non-payment of the financial undertaking of the first payment as per the agreement, amounting to (100) one hundred thousand U.S. dollars which was due on 18/11/1993.

2. The warner sustained financial losses by the non-payment of the addressee the amount for copying the supporting educational methods which he ordered and received.

3. The warmer sustained also a great deal of moral losses as a result of the following:

a. What has been published in the Jordanian newspapers (Al Rai), regarding the sale of the University to the private sector and the denial, and consequently the negative and contrary effect upon those dealing with the university such as students, assistant professors and the like.

b. The news published in the Jordan Times on 16/12/1993 in respect of sale of the university.

c. Causing the inability of signing an agreement with the Razi Institute in the United Arab Emirates due to what had been published in the newspapers there about the sale of the university to the private sector which affected the warner materially and morally and weakened the confidence of others in the university.

d. We estimate the material and moral damages caused to the warner, Al-Quds Open University, by a sum not less than ten million U.S. dollars.

The Request:

For these reasons, and due to the violations explained in this warning, the warner calls upon you, and within fifteen days from the date of serving this warning on you, to immediately abide by the terms of this agreement and to obstain from carrying out these acts which cause material and moral damages to the warner, and to immediately pay and fulfill all the financial obligations falling due on you within the period spacified in this warning and to refrain from tha continuous violations of the terms of the agreement, otherwise, the warner shall, unfortunately, be compelled to take up the legal proceedings against you such as raising a case, laying seizure on your property which can lagally be seized, and claiming from you the many damages and losses which you caused as a result of your violating the terms of the agreement and charging you all the fees, expenses and advocate fees and considering the agreement and its supplements to be cancelled from the date of termination of the period specified in this waithing.

Faithfully yours

Attorney for the Warner Advocate Massoud Khalifeh

Warning through the Notary Public at Amman made by Attorney of the warner under No. 1122, on 3/1/1994.

WHAT'S GOING ON

EXHIBITIONS

- * Photo exhibition by artist Muwaffaq Al Sheikh at the Royal Cultural Centre.
- Art exhibition by artist Sadik Kwaish entitled "Talisma" at Baladna Art Gallery. * Exhibition of Iraqi books at the Royal Cultural Centre. Exhibition "Prints and Drawings of Fakhrelnissa Zeid"

(1915-1991) until the 15th of January '94 at Darat al Funun

of the Abdul Hameed Shoman Foundation. Also showing the

"Permanent" Exhibition. (Tel. 643251/2). LECTURE

Lecture in Arabic entitled "The Arab Political Thought and the Challenges of Peace" hy Mr. Mohammad Kashli at Abdul Hameed Shoman Foundation at 6:00 p.m.

FILMS

- Video film in Arabic on German artist Katharina Sieverding and the art of sculpture at Goethe-Institut at 8:00 p.m.
- * German film entitled "Kinder, Kader Kommandeure" (with subtitles in English) at the Goethe-Institut at 8:00 p.m.
- ☆ Jordan River Designs offers things for sale at the showroom in Jabai Luweibdeh (8:00 a.m.-7:00 p.m.) (Tel. 656872)
- Poetry recital by Syrian poet Hanif Yousef at the Phoenix Gallery for Art and Culture at 7:00 p.m.

NEWS IN BRIEF

Adwan opens Jordan fair in Holland

AMSTERDAM (Petra) — Tourism and Antiquities Minister Mohammad Al Adwan Friday opened the Jordanian pavillion at Netherland's Otricht international tourism fair, in which 88 countries are taking part. Dr. Adwan also met with delegations representing several countries participating in the fair and discussed with them means of enhancing tourism cooperation between Jordan and their respective countries. The minister later visited the pavillions of Arab countries participating in the fair, including Egypt, Tunisia, Morocco, Algeria, Syria, Yemen and Palestine.

Labour symposium opens today

AMMAN (Petra) - A two-day symposium on labourers' rights starts here Saturday with participants from seven Arab countries. The symposium, organised by the General Federation of Jordanian Trade Unions (GFJTU), in cooperation with the Brussel-based Free Trade Unions Association, aims at enhancing unionist rights and exchange of experiences in the field of labour legislations. Taking part in the symposium will be representatives of trade unions in Yemen, Tunisia, Kuwait, Lebanon, Palestine, Bahrain and Jordan.

Jordan to help green Lebanon

AMMAN (Petra) - Jordan has decided to present 250,000 forest tree saplings to Lebanon to be used in the reafforesta-tion of areas ruined by the Lebanese civil war. The saplings will be sent to Lebanon as soon as possible.

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Israel after the Ukraine

THE CAUSE for a nuclear-free world received a significant boost Friday when the Ukraine entered in an agreement with Russia and the United States to scrap its nuclear arsenal. This cause was also served by agreement between the United States and Russia to stop operating their nuclear weapons under the antagonistic presumptions that shaped the two countries' relations since the beginning of the cold war.

Never siace the dawn of the nuclear age has the United States and Russia not aimed their mass-destruction weapons at each other. Now they will. Thus Americans and Russians will feel safer knowing that they are not the set target of nuclear missiles.

The mutual assured destruction (MAD) that promised apocalypse for both the U.S. and the former Soviet Union had they unleashed their missiles on each other has prevented the use of nuclear weapons during the many conflicts and threats that developed during the cold war.

A realisation that economic stability and world cooperation, not nuclear weapons, are the only guarantee of real security has contributed to the signing of the agreement. But so did the harsh economic conditions through which peoples of the former Soviet republics find themselves living after the disintegration of the

Ukrainian President Leonid Kravchuk was accused of treason for signing away the world's largest arsenal of nuclear weapons. The fact that he signed the agreement at a time when his country is bordering on economic collepse prompted his opponents in parliament to say that the president sold out the Ukraine's interests to the United States and Russia.

Kravchuk will on Thursday be battling those oppoheats over the treaty. His chances of winning would to a farge extent depend on his ability to convince lawmakers of the visbility of the "nuclear-free dividend."

Arguments against the treaty on security grounds provide be refuted by the protection that the nuclear ing that nuclear weapons cannot be used against nations party to it. So can decades of nuclear race which only succeeded in draining the economics of the nations who

The Ukrainian president will win his argument in parliament if he can forcefully articulate the promise of eccaomic prosperity and social stability that relaxed relations which the Ukraine's big neighbour, Russia, and the U.S. can produce.

Doth countries can strengthen his case: Russia by removing the fears of any imperial and expansionist ambitions that it has against its neighbours; and the U.S. by offering economic help not only to the Ukraine but c > to all the impoverished republics who are still

s. Aring from their Soviet heritage. After the treaty was signed, President Bill Clinton said that military strength is not the key to security. He was right. But he will be wrong if this logic is applied only in minors were a threat to the U.S.' direct security presents

The American president should carry his argument to the Middle East where the cost of armament has for so the complied the treasuries of the region. Israel is reliating to make the necessary concessions for peace in :: Middle East on the grounds that its security could be Createned. Its giant armament programme is forcing countries in the region to earmark for their defence tructures funds that are badly needed to finance health, anti-ronmental, educational and social development pro-

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The U.S. has so far done little to keep Israel in check. In Inct, U.S. policies, and Washington's huge military cit. to Israel, has accelerated the armament race in the ragion and denied it the right to claim the high moral ground when it comes to the arms race.

Little has the U.S. done also to limit or stop Israel's nuclear programme. The big noise Washington and its a! 15 mage about the nascent attempts by Iraq and Iran to develop nuclear weapons compares to a deafening silen a over Israel's already mature, and deadly nuclear

Protear weapons pose a real threat to world security with gaver they are. They do so in Israel as much as in the vice. Efforts to end the nuclear nightmare should not ined and restrained by narrow political interests or 2 a noteness of the threat from Washington.

ATABIC PRESS COMMENTARIES

PLUMNIST in Al Dustour daily advocated the cause of ers who are struggling to establish an association similar ther associations in the country. The teachers are in an association which is part of the country's elements locracy and one which can contribute to solving teat i's problems and helping them better contribute to the socio-economie development, said Taher Al Adwan. The writer said that a draft law on the formation of this association is still facing obstacles at the Senate, in a manner reminiscent of the previous Parliament, and the whole issue is now referred to the Figher Council for the Interpretation of the Constitution before further action can be taken by Parliament, said the writer. The teachers had hoped that the draft law, which failed to win the favour of the previous Parliament, would be passed by the new one and indeed the hopes increased when the Lower I have gave its consent to it, added the writer. While

hat it is the right of the senators to scrutinise this re taking a final decision, one can only say that the have a legitimate right to raise their voices and they have an association to take care of their i he a wosphere of democracy, said the writer.

Jordanian Perspective

By Dr. Musa Keilani

Jerusalem — the need to rise above politics

EVER SINCE the Middle East peace process was launehed in Madrid, more than two years ago, one of the key questions that hung in an air of uncertainty was the status of Jerusalem. Not that it is answered now; nor that an answer would be easy

But the appointment of a new Royal Commission on Jerusalem Affairs by His Majesty King Hussein last week has reaffirmed the basic essence of the Hashemite family's approach to the Holy City. There may be some who might argue that tackling the problem of Jerusalem could only bring further problems, but that argument does not take into consideration the intrinsie religious link that the Hashemites have with the Holy City.

One has to rise above the narrow vision of the politics that go along with any discussion on Jerusalem. It is not a political ssue, but a religious one which has come under repeated attempts aimed at confusing it with politics.

Historically, the Hashemites were and remain the guardian of Jerusalem and the Islamic holy sites there. The physical control of the city remains with Israel today, but that does not alter its Islamic and Arab identity and roots there and should not be a reason for anyone to resign into accepting the status

Heard during the ongoing debate on the draft budget for 1994 in Parliament was an argument that allocations for the upkeep of Waqf institutions in Jerusalem should be dropped. The argument held that such allocations in the past were acceptable since they served a "political purpose" and now that the Palestinians are asserting their right for an indepen-dent Palestinian state with Arab Jerusalem as its capital, there is little sense in Jordan continuing to spend money in the Holy

Such arguments have a very fundamental flaw since it is groundless to assert that politics was the basis for continued Jordanian involvement in Jerusalem even after the Kingdom's 1988 decision to sever legal and administrative links with the West Bank. Quite simply it was not.

On the contrary. Jordan's insistance on maintaining the

Hashemites' religious links with Jerusalem and continued involvement in the affairs of the Islamic holy shrines there underlines the inalienable Arab and Muslim rights to the Holy

As such, it is quite disconcerting to hear some of our elected representatives making politically naive suggestions by adding a political colour to Jordan's involvement in Jerusalem. However, that is an internal Jordanian issue, and the picture would be more clear to those who may not understand it or do

not want to understand it as we go along further. The Jordanian move to strengthen efforts to arrive at a satisfactory arrangement to protect the religious identity of Jerusalem and King Hussein's repeated affirmations that he would accept only God's sovereignty over the Holy City have

to be seen against the realities on the ground today. For one thing, the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO), by agreeing to put off negotiations on the status of Jerusalem for another three years in its Sept. 13 accord with Israel, has made it imperative for the Arab and Islamic World to step in and ensure that the so-called interim period does not leave a vacuum in the efforts to salvage the Holy City from

The repeated affirmations and pledges by Israeli leaders not to let anyone change the status of Jerusalem as the "eternal and indivisible capital" of the Jewish state do indicate an Israeli realisation of the objectives of the Jordanian effort. For sure, they do not appreciate it and will do everything in their power to undermine it. Hence the pressing need to put the Islamie house in order and look at the issue more closely and candidly without letting political considerations cloud a judgement. There has to be a political will to do so.

That is the political aspect of the issue, if one would like to see it that way. But it should not be seen isolated from the decades of efforts that Jordan has put in not to allow any dilution of the Arab and Islamic rights in Jerusalem.

It has been a very consistent stand, uneroded by the course of political events. No doubt, it will only be hardened and toughened as we go along towards realising, hopefully, the rights of the Palestinians and a satisfactory solution to the overall Arab-Israeli conflict,

The vision of King Hussein is very clear. There cannot be any abandoning of the Arab and Muslim rights in Jerusalem, regardless of the shape of a peace settlement; and Jordan will fight it alone if the Arabs and Muslims do not rise to the formidable challenge that poses itself on the way to safeguarding the Islamic rights in Jerusalem.

The King's repeated comments in this context are also clear. The Hashemites understand and appreciate the importance of lerusalem to Christanity and Indaism, and that the only way to

Jerusalem to Christanity and Judaism, and that the only way to address the Christian and Jewish concerns in this context is through a frank and free dialogue among the three religions. But such a dialogue should essentially start from the very recognition and acceptance by all concerned of the Hashemites' role as the guardian of the Islamic holy shrines in

The new Royal Commission on Jerusalem Affairs is definitely not the Islamic body that King Hussein proposed as a possible administrator of the Islamic holy shrines in Jerusalem, and the inclusion of non-Jordanian personalities in the commission should only be taken as a first step towards realising the objective of setting up such an all-embracing However; the overall Arab and Islamic response to the

King's call for such a panel, representing all sects of the Islamic faith, has not been very forthcoming, perhaps because of the political confusion surrounding the Israeli-Palestinian peace process and the lingering strains in inter-Arab relations. Indeed, that is a sad state of affairs, given the fact that we hear loud voices from the Muslim World reaffirming the importance of Jerusalem to the Islamic faith but little being done on an Islamic level to help boost the Jordanian endeavour to ensure that the Holy City is not lost for ever to

The case for Yasser Arafat.

By Ludwig W. Tamari

FOR MONTHS AFTER THE SIGNING OF THE Declaration of Principles, the peace process now appears to be los-ing momentum. Both Yasser Arafat and Yitzhak Rabin seem to be unable to agree on the modalities of implementing the current agreement. The situation is volatile. In some corridors of power. Israel's long-term intentions are open to questioning and Mr. Ara-fat's ability to lead is subject to closer scrutiny.

After months of criticising

Mr. Arafat for being too willing to deal with Israel, he is now being held accountable, by the Israelis for not being willing enough.

The present litany of Israel's criticism of the Palestinians and their leaders is reminiscent of the pre-Madrid days. Such criticism was meant to expose Palestinian helplessness, while the present barrage of criticism is designed to confirm Palestinian hopelessness. In either case. Israel's criticism should be considered as a diagnose of Palestinian ailments and certainly not a confirmation of Palestinian frustration. The critics failed to mention that the Palestinian leadership reflected the status of its people: the leadership was fragmented because the Palestinian people were scattered all over the world. Not only their positions were uncentred, but also their leaders were systematically

being decimated. How many times in history has a stateless people negotiated for their homeland with their predators? How often has a people been asked to speak with one voice when it lacked a government, let alone an elected one? One wonders when will it be that human rights, as international recognised, will be synonymous with Palestinian homan rights? Yet, when might is right, woe to the

The questions are rhetorical. The most remarkable thing about the agreement is not that it is proving difficult to implement, but that it ever hap-

The fact that it happened is simply because both the Palestinians and the Israelis came to realise that since t beginning of the Palestinian catastrophe, for the first time. the Palestinians came to recognise one leader-Yasser Arafatas the embodiment of their legitimate rights. The Israelis in turn saw in Mr. Arafat. (Once upon a time the most wanted terrorist in the world) their hope to render out of the Palestinian entity, an oasis of peace in the Middle East. That is why it is important for the Palestinian people to stand together behind Yasser Arafat.

I am not appealing to blind

loyalty. I want the Palestinian intelligentsia, along with the other Arab sympathisers and international supporters, to cononue to question Mr. Arafat - we need that, and I am certain that Mr. Arafat would welcome it. He should understand that not all criticism is made in bad faith or intended as an attack on him. If this apologia on behalf of Mr. Arafat is to be of any value, he ought to remember that in the past, the Palestinians placed their trust in him because they knew that he would listen. Mr. Arafat cannot stop listening now, simply because he does not like what he is hearing. Granted that, at any given time, criticism should be substantive, pointed and creative. Any criticism that is maliciously couched to destroy Mr. Arafat could have enormous consequences. It could escalate into a state of overt confrontation between the Palestinians. Before that happens, the Palestinians should take a step back and anempt to understand the current situation and honestly determine for themselves where they stand as a

It is time for a little truth est the Palestinians forgot that for decades they had been tagged as terrorists. Beteft of friends in a world drawn tightly against them, the Palestinians should now depend on each other more than ever before.

Yes, there are Palestinians who long to return to the Palestine that was, and which now is Israel. They will never make peace with Israel. Ever. I understand their rejectionism because there is a degree of rejectionism in each and every Palestinian. Make no mistake, the rejectionists are well intentioned patriots and ought to be beard. Of course it is far easier to criticise and do nothing at all than to work for peace. What do the rejectionists really oppose? Peace? Or only the peace of Yasser Arafat? Would an agreement with

The clust sport able if it were written by a rejectionist? I say it would, and Mr. Arafat would readily endorse it — who would not? Peace it would bring and peace is what we need.

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The one maverick stripe of open militancy to the general principles is Hamas. For decades. Hamas's rejectionism has been mushrooming as a direct result of Israel's intransigence and denial of Palestinian inalienable rights. The religious undertones of

Hamas's rejectionism does not necessarily mean that they propagate the imposition of an Islamist Palestinian state as opposed to a secular state by popular vote. As patriots, the rank and file of Hamas would come to realise that "reason" is the bandmaid of pure reli-gioo and the rewards of a virtuous and prosperous state is the result of the common ground of pure religioo and good government. For religion without compassion is like secularism without reason. I am inclined to believe that, in the final resort, Hamas would not be ambivalent to the democratic process, since the democratic process is the one and only plausible entrée to a moral, peaceful and prosperous Palestine.

The truth about some rejectionists, whether they are nationalists or Islamists, is that they are now more ferocious in their opposition to the general principles than many of the Israelis. How ironic that the one principle, which the Palestinian and Israeli rejectionist hold in common is their unyielding hatred of Mr. Arafat and Mr. Rabin. So much so that the intensity of their hatred has transcended the empiricism of reinstatiog Palestinian rights on the one hand and ensuring Israel's peace and security on the other. Although this stripe of the rejectionists is limited in number, the fact remains that *if there are fewer wolves in the forest it does not mean that the

forest is safe. That leaves us with Yasser Arafat. And while he is not theperfect choice for this job of leading the Palestinians out of the impositions of this imperfect agreement, he remains the only choice. He has won that through the thick and thin of decades of incessant struggle. Since the qualitative mien of leaders is often equated in terms of their ratings as to who is the hammer and who is the anvil, Mr. Arafat had his leadership honed by the hammer into a steely anvil. The anvil that he became evolved as a second nature. Mr. Arafat became adapt at foretelling the reactions to the hammer strokes even before they fell. That was Arafat the anvil until the Declaration of Principles:

In retrospect, the annals of Mr. Arafat's ability to survive read like a Greek melodrama; he withstood the deadly hammering of international intrigues, triumphed over the agomising dissention among bis own ranks and, above all, he managed to keep floating notwithstanding the miscarriaging blows of his own miscalcula-

The Declaration of Principles transformed Mr. Arafat from an anvil into a hammer. This sudden shift in roles placed enormous responsibilities on him and on the Palestinian people - who are not solely responsible for carrying out the implementation of the current peace agreement. Yet, the challenges facing Mr. Arafat did not come with any grant of authority.

By trying to forge the mak-ings of the Palestinian state, Mr. Arafat was required to wield the hammers of responsibility while he was denied the minimum ingredients of authority. Here lies one of the serious lapses in the Declaration of Principles. This structural omission, whether by accident or design, meant that Mr. Arafat will be damaed if he does and doomed if he does not. For students of history and geo-politics, this state of suspensive animation in which Mr. Arafat was put should rate as one of the modern classics of negotiated power politics.

For all intents and purposes and without sounding facetious. I tend to believe that for Mr. Arafat to get out of this impasse. he should wish for a successful conclusion of the ongoing peace negotiations between Syria/Jordan and Israel. The Israelis have won many battles, yet now it is within their power Palestinians and Israelis - to win the decisive war of peace.

The writer is a Washingtonbased lawyer. He contributed this article to the Jordan-

The Week In Print

Jordanian-Palestinian deal draws controversial reaction from media

Reviewed by Elia Nasrallah

THE JORDANIAN-Palestinian accord signed in Amman on Jan. 7 continued to draw reactions from the local columnists in the Arabic press. Also covered were the stalled Middle East process and prospects for a settlement, in addition to a number of domestic issues.

A columnist in Al Ra'i daily said that the Jordanian-Palestinian agreement was a reaffirmation of the fact that the two peoples are one and have had the same destiny and aspirations throughout

Dr. Jamai Shaer said that the Jordanian-Palestinian unity has been the most successful among various forms of unions hatched by different Arab states in modern his-

The Palestinians and the Jordanians are linked geographically, socially, economically and demographically. the two sides continue to face the same challenges and the same goals and both believe in parliamentary democracy and respect for human rights. added the writer. The aim of this agreement is to attain a federation which is a form of union that would benefit the

two peoples, he concluded. Sawt Al Shaab daily hailed the Jordanian-Palestinian agreement as a true response to the aspirations and the hopes of the people on the two banks of the River Jor-

Agreement by the two sides to coordinate their stand vis-a-vis the peace process, to regulate the work of Jordanian banks in the West Bank and to cooperate in economic matters is bound to open the door wide for the Jordanians and the Palestinians to embark on measures that would bring about.

It is only a small step on describing the Jordanian-Palestinian deal.

strange to see some writers expressing dismay over the limited agreement between the two sides and it should be stressed that the deal was only the beginning towards great deal at this stage and one cannot expect more than has been achieved between the two sides, taking into consideration that the Palestinian land is still under occupation, added Saoudi. His views were echoed by

Sultan Al Hanab, a columnist in Al Ra'i, who said that the agreement represented a big achievement. especially as different nations and world organisations have their eyes on the occupied Arab lands to make major investments.

The writer said that the opening of banks and coordination in economic matters as well as on the common stand vis-a-vis the peace process constitute a major accomplishment on the part of the Jordanian and the Palestinian leaderships.

Describing the Jordanian Palestinian deal as a step backward, a noted columnist in Al Ra'i said that Jordan would have been better off without it.

Fahed Al Fanek said that under the present deal. Jordanian-Palestinian economie relations would not advance but perhaps would go back.

The establishment of Jordanian banks in the occupied lands is a temporary measure, according to the deal, because this can continue while the autonomy rule lasts; under a Palestinian state, things could change and the Palestinians would have their own currency and their own financial, banking and monetary systems, said the writer who also noted that the deal provides only for encouraging the private sectors on both sides to embark on investments, but there was nothing specific ab-

out this particular point. His views were countered by Mahmoud Rimawi, a columnist in Al Ra'i, who said that the deal transcends the question of coordination and cooperation and goes beyond these lines because it paves the way for a common market, a common economic life

and unity in the future. The writer said that the deal was necessary to define the elements and the components for future unity, taking into account the changes that occurred on the ground since the 1967 occupation.

Referring to the Clinton-Assed ed the view that the U.S. president could have something up his sleeve because it was he who

pressed hope that Mr. Clinton would come up with something concrete towards giving momentum to the peace process, said one has to remember that Svris continues to hold on to its demands of full (sraeli withdrawa before peace can be attained. The writer said there is no

chance for any progress in the peace efforts unless the Ruhir government expresses desire to mply with the U.N. resolutions which call for withdrawal from Syrian, Lebanese, Jordanian and

in Al Dustour, expressed the view that the 28 month Arab

Since the Madrid conference. rhe Arabs achieved nothing on the ground and despite the separate negotiations between Israel and the Arah parties not a single step has been achieved. largely due to Israel's intransigence, the

stands and perpetuated the inter-Arab differences, rendering any hope for a true inter-Arah coor dination vis-a vis the peace pro-cess a mirage, said the writer. Referring to the resumed Palesthian-Israell peace talks in Taba, Sawi Al Shaab daily said that Israel has a tendency to raise conroversial issues from the start in order to render the talks

The Israelis are determined to prolong the period of negotia-tions with the hope of causing discouragement to the Palestinian side and driving the Palestinian negotiating teams to desper ate action, accepting the Israeli dictates, said the paper.

security and the bridges, Israel is placing obstacles right from the beginning of the talks, it added The paper's views were echoed

by Arafat Hijazi, a columnist in Sawt Al Shaah, who said that the Palestinian-Israeli talks tend to render the Palestinians powerless in terms of defence. While the Israelis continue their atrocities against the people in the occupied Arah land, and

controlling their own Internal aftairs, said the writer.

the lands and the people of Palestine.

in Israel's aggression against Lebanon in 1982.

other parts occupied lands, but rather to appease the Jewish lobby in the United States. The team's mission is provoca-

A columnist in Al Ra'i daily highlighted Jordan's role to trying to preserve Yemen's unity, ling that this is motivated by Jordan's keenness on achieving a pan-Arah unity. Sultan Al Hattah said that

concerned over Arab unity.

This is a stage in which the Arabs must make peace with Israel and therefore it is taboo

for the Arabs to reconcile with

at this strige, said the writer. A writer in Al Dustour de scribed Prime Minister Abdul Salam Al Majali's programmes to overhaul the public administration system as a daring move to end the obsolete system that does not cater to the needs of the modern age.

Mohammad Danud said that the time has come for serving justice and be fair to the compe tent employees and ensure a more decent life for the pension-

further progress to both, said the paper. the long way of common action which is not strewn with roses, said Hani Saoudi in

The writer said that it is other more ambitious steps. One should not expect a

summit in Geneva this week, a columnist in Al Dustour express-

called for the meeting.

Mohammad Kawash, who ex-

Taher Al Udwan, a columnist Israeli peace process has been u total failure.

If anything, the Madrid conference has opened the door for israel to show more adamant

By declaring its determination to hold on to the question of

while they continue to arm themselves and hold on to the borders and maners of security, they want the Palestinians to give up their right to ensuring security or

What Israel aims from these talks, he said, is to get the approval of the Palestinians for Israel's continued hegemony on

Commenting on last week's visit to the region by a U.S. congressional team, Tareo Masarweh, a columnist in Al Ra'i daily, said that the team did not come to advocate the cause of the 13,000 detained Palestins in Israel jails but ro search for the missing (sraeli troops lost

The writer said that the team did not come here in order to discuss ways for ending the occupation of Lebanon and the

live to the Arabs and one that shows U.S.'s disregard to the

despite the clapse of three years. this Yemeni unity has not been fully implemented and practical sieps were needed to put it into torce. Let us hope, said the writer, that the slogans raised by the Yemenis over the past three years would be translated inro action with some help from Jordan and the other Arab countries

Mohammad Kawash, a umnist in Al Dustour, said that the two Yemens can not end their differences and protect their unity simply because the United States does not want this to come about,

one another to or take steps to preserve their unity, said the For this reason, he added, we have heard Qatar and Oman trying it and Arah differences. but we have seen no practical steps on the part of any other Arab country 1, ,eactivate solidurity among Arab governments

He said that there is need for incentives to be given to the

creative workers.

departes reques extrace and product on be restricted to major ciries areas areas egeranention in Les AM CEN

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By Justin Keay

RAGUE. Czech Republic and loon after the velvet revoluion of 1989, they came; slowly nut t first, then in increasing num-Peace ers. putting increasing strain n Prague's outdated infrastrucbe of are. stretching hutels, reseneral surants and bars to capacity. or de 15 with Venice in the 1970s or

on eville in the 1980s, a vast, as remingly endless influx of isitors is changing the very ssence of the place: Prague's elative isolation during the ommunist era has made subequent changes all the more es no squatte. they For anyone familiar with the of an ity before 1990. Prague has

ecome a travesty, a tourisie by ised facsimile of the place that 3, the ispired Kafka to pen his ightmarish visions and Havel ason" as humanistic essays. The reli erie, melancholic atmosphere of a which pervaded the city has state one, replaced by brash westmmon in consumerism and by a reand entless catering to the lowest

A perfect example is the old

(Continued from page I)

work of a joint Jordanian-

mor King and President Clinton

erous are expected to review the

rejec American-Israeli economic

are working group and ideas and

that proposals discussed during

ous in the Middle East visit in De-

neral cember of U.S. Secretary of

the State Warren Christopher.

the agreement on reopening

rejec. lordanian commercial banks their in the occupied territories is

Ara the only concrete result so far

ch so of the work of the group.

their Negotiations on the accord

the had started almost one year

ating

before the group was formed

during a visit by His Royal

Highness Crown Prince Has-

the san to Washington in Octo-

The conclusion of an

town square. Staromeske Namesti, one uf the most beautiful in Europe and --until recently -- largely unchanged from its 17th century heyday. Today visitors struggle to get an impression of what it must have been like hefore it was ruined by outdoor cafes. fast-food joints and cheap jewelry stalls, as well as such tasteless horrors as the "original hlacksmith's shoppe." While with a maximum of avarice and a minimum of good taste.

The first assault on your wallet comes when you are charged an average of 9 per cent commission for changing money at (usually western-run) exchange booths; there will be many more — by unscrupulous bar-tenders, restauranteurs and taxi-drivers - all of whom are legally allowed to charge visitors more than the going Czech rates, provided the food or service is "in some way" different. If they don't get you. rhe town's growing population of thieves and scam merchants will. The problem is such that

Proposals for joint projects

and American suggestions of

"confidence-building mea-

sures" between Jordan and

Israel are also expected to be

reviewed by King Hussein

Prime Minister Majali,

who delayed his departure

for Washington for a few

days so that be could meet

with visiting U.S. Secretary

of Commerce Ron Brown on

Monday, told reporters last

week that Jordan boped "for

continuous support of the

Jordanian economy and de-

feoce forces as well as debt

President Clinton has

pledged to help Jordan in

addressing its foreign debts.

and diplomats say that one of

the measures under consid-

and President Clinton.

trams and huses entering the centre announce over the speaker systems, in three languages: "You are entering an area renowned for pickpockets. Please keep an eye on your belungings at all times.

For the past three years, Prague has been the European city tu see, and be seen in. Tourists of all generations from Germany, the U.S., Britain, Italy and Spain, not to mention further afield, have poured into the city, eager to grab their share of the city of Kafka.

An excellent location in the heart of Europe, together with a now fading reputation for heing inexpensive, relatively "undiscovered" and "atmospheric," bas belped sustain the flow. At any time of the year, visitors are a common sight in the old town and on Wenceslas Square, clutching guide books nubody can blame the Czechs fur turning westwards after so many years uf drab communism. Prague in 1993 poses a King and Clinton to meet on Friday

eration could be a write-off of part of the Kingdom's debts

Amman owes Washington \$946 million, including \$380 million in military debts incurred during the 1980s. when Jordan depended solely on the U.S. to equip its armed forces. In 1987, Jordan turned to the then Soviet Union for its needs of a defensive missile system after the Reagan administration flatly turned down a \$1.8 billion arms package for the

to the U.S.

Jordanian-American military ties have heen renewed since then. Armed forces of the two sides held at least three joint military ex ercises in the southern desert and the Red Sea after the end of the Gulf war over Kuwait in

General Joseph Hoar, head of the U.S. Central Command, was in Jordan last week on his third visit to the Kingdom after assuming office in 1991.

His Royal Highness Prince Mohammad, the Regent, and Dr. Majali, who is also defence minister, held talks with Gen. Hoar. Ideas disexpected to he explored during the King's summit with President Clinton.

Officials and informed sources say that despite President Clinton's pledge in October, even the release of up to \$35 million in aid to Jordan has been held up.

The administration issued a certification to release the aid on Sept. 15, one day after Jordan and Israel signed an agenda outlining the basis for negotiations and a peace agreement.

Also expected to be raised during the White House meeting are Jordan's concerns over the de facto blockade of Aqaba as part of the enforcement of the international sanctions against Iraq and what officials bere describe as stalling at the U.N. over Jordan's requests for permissions for exports of sanction-exempt food and medicine to Iraq.

communist countries seeking to escape their unhappy past through such a rapid embrace of the free market.

"After coming all this way, I'm disappointed," says Jean, a visitor to the city from Los Angeles. "This place is like America." Many others echo the complaint.

Internationalised and marketised with incredible speed, the city stands in danger of losing its soul, or at the very least, those ingredients which made ir so special. The dangers were always there, given the city's compactness and proximity to Germany, but they have been exacerbated by Prime Minister Vaclav Klaus' uncritical laissez-faire and by the need uf international criminal networks to expand their op-

The new Prague becomes noticeable the moment you leave the subway and walk onto the pedestrian boulevard Na Prikope, or into the historic old town centre. Your ears are assailed by the un-Czech sounds of Latin-American salsa music, or by the latest U2 album being blasted from a T-shirt shop. Your eyes strain to take in the comucopia of McDonald's wrappings being blown across the street or garish stalls hawking every conceivable souvenir, produced and coke cans. From July through September, their presence amounts to an epidemic. Prague's relatively cheap rents have also made it the latest stop for those determined to put the Bohemian back into Bohemia. Thousands of young travellers hang out on Charles Bridge, while post-modernist hippies, staggering from an excess of the excellent, still cheap Czech beer, make Prague resemble Haight-Ashbury in the

The town's increasingly overstretched and demoralised police force finds itself unable to cope. Prague's position, and the Czech Republic's relatively open borders and reputation for lax law enforcement have turned the city into a Chicago for the 1990s, an essential staging post for money-launderers. drug-dealers and car thieves from rail over Europe, but . especially from the former



The beauty of Prague's famous Charles Bridge - which links the old town to the Castle District - has been blemished by stalls setting tourist souvenirs (WNL photo)

East bloc. Shootouts and armed robbery have become commonplace.

The two associated phenomena account for many of the changes that have transformed the city in recent months. The famous Charles Bridge, a historic pedestrian thoroughfare linking the old town to the Hradcany, or Castle District, has always been a magnet for visitors. Soon after 1989, it became the haunt of young Czechs and foreigners, a place simply to sit and watch the passers-by. The opportunity was not ignored by the city's organised criminal community who bought their way into the stalls that had sprung up along the bridge, selling everything

1991-92 saw this process reach a climax, as rival gangs; contested the lucrative site,

from drawings and paintings to

tackier representations of the

and the city's police force proved itself unable to handle the occasional violence that resulted from rival claims to

'pitches.' The result, in 1993, is that control of the bridge and of what happens on it, has been passed to a private company, the Charles Bridge Artists Association, who guarantee to pay to the city taxes which it was previously unable to collect. The association employs private security guards who patrol the bridge, ensuring that only accredited salesmeo operate the stalls there. Dressed entirely in black, carrying walkie-talkies and armed with long black sticks, they bear a strong resemblance to New York cops. Incredibly, they have the right to tell pedestrians what to do. Uniquely for any prime tourist site in a European city, the Charles Bridge has, de facto, been privatised.

Private security firms have become a growth business in the new Prague, with a recent estimate suggesting that some 550 operate in the capital. Legally, they have little more authority than a private citizen, but this has not stopped them throwing their weight around in the interests of their employers.

Hitherto, the government has done little to control the activities of private security guards because they have little option but to co-opt their help in the battle against crime. This has led to strong resentment from Czechs who suggest

that many of the people employed by the security companies have criminal records themselves, and are in many ways as bad as the problem they are supposed to be fighting. Many are also reputed to be former employees of the StB. the communist secret service officially disbanded in 1990, who have not been afraid to use their knowledge of security files to their own advantage.

This brave new world is not to the liking of ordinary Czechs. "After so many years of no change, we have this," says Olga, a resident in the old city, casting a look at the endless passing parade of tourists outside. "I don't know what to say; it just doesn't feel like home any more" — World News Link.

tha louse votes on draft budget today

(Continued from page 1)

of the lecision by the Central Bank b of it Jordan to lift curbs on comut of nercial bank credits was "a oper related one and would help is the apital flight."

that Deputy Munir Sobar, memggle. Committee, requested that the nle of the inspection and conin rol bureau be "clarified and a who tw corresponding to its role be

Some deputies requested amer lat the service and production anvil ectors not be restricted to the 25 a ingdom's major cities and be lat distant rural areas be iven proper attention in terms

1- Sofa set cleaning

Persian carpets.

of upgraded infrastructure and services.

Deputy Mohammad Hunaiti (Amman) limited his speech to demands for infrastructure services in his district, pointing to and road networks in many areas of his constituency.

Deputy Nader Thuheirat (Irbid) called for "easy and convincing means to collect taxes and devise legislation that would prevent tax dual-

Ten more deputies are scheduled to take the podium to-



Ungaro for men reaches Jordan

MMAN — Abu Shakra Trading Agency Thursday. Jan. 13 held a press conference during which the agency's General Manager Raed Abu Shakra introduced eau de oilette ungaro pour l'Homme III from Parfums Ungaro.

Ms. Heather M. Tatham, nead of communication in France, said: "Three years were enough to launch this unusual trio, different yet

coherent. A touch sophisti cated, ungaro pour l'Homme III forms the key stone of the ungaro house of perfumes where all fragrances play their own role, without conflict."

Emanuel Ungaro addresses himself to men who enjoy the company of women. He is now launching a third fragrance to flatter and satisfy their nostrils and make them more desirable.

HEAVY EQUIPMENT FOR SALE

{ COMEDAT } JORDAN ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT & TRADING CO. ANNOUNCES THE SALE OF THE FOLLOWING EQUIPMENT:

_	MACHINE TYPE	MAKE	MODEL	QTY.	YEAR	
	DRILLING RIGS	INGERSOLL-RAND	CM351	7	85-86	
	COMPRESSORS	INGERSOLL-RAND	VHP700	8	85-86	
	EXCAVATORS	OÆK	RH75 A	4	77-79	
		O&K	RH75 C	1	86	
		O&K	RH40	1	81	
	DUMPTRUCKS	PERLINI	DP655	14	77-86	
		PERLINI	131-33	10	89	
		AVELING BARFORD	RD040	10	81-86	
	WHEEL LOADERS	CATERPILLAR	988 B	2	83-86	
	BULLDOZERS	KOMATSU	D 155 A	4	81-84	
	GRADERS	AVELING BARFORD	BFRD 400	1	79	
		CATERPILLAR	130 G	1	76	
		CATERPILLAR	140 G	1	24	

N.B. ALL THE LISTED EQUIPMENT ARE ON TEMPORARY ENTRY BASIS INTERESTED PARTIES ARE KINDLY REQUESTED TO CONTACT THE HEAD OFFICE AT: JABAL AMMAN 41 ABU FIRAS ST. 4TH CIRCLE. PHONE: 642096 / 644096

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AHRAM GENERAL SERVICES

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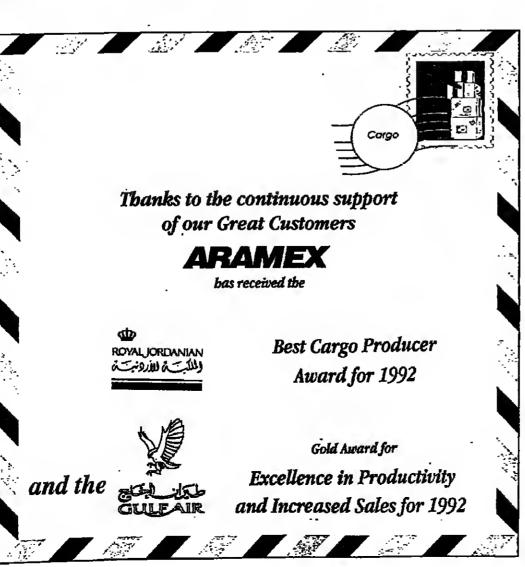
2- All types of carpet cleaning, including

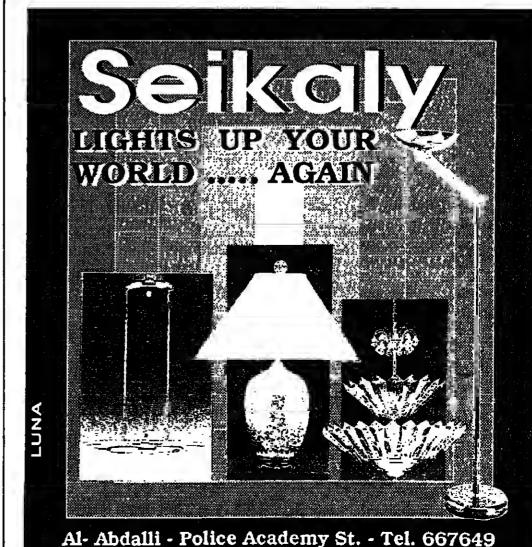
By modern machines and highly

skilled workers, competiteve prices

SPECIAL OFFER







U.S., GCC states negotiate intellectual property rights

ABU DHABI (R) — The United States and Gulf Arab states are negotiating agreements on laws to end the sale and production of pirated U.S. books, tapes and products in the region, economists have

These issues will be a priority in talks which Commerce Secretary Ron Brown and a U.S. trade representative (USTR) delegation will have with officials from the Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) in Riyadh on Jan. 16 and 17.

USTR's Peter Allgeier, who is visiting the United Arab Emirates (UAE), met Commerce Minister Said Ghobash Tuesday. The GCC also includes Saudi Arabia, Oman, Qatar, Kuwait and Bahrain.

They are due to negotiate agreements an protection for U.S. praduets under the GCC's fledgling intellectual property rights laws which cover copyrights, trademarks and apatents.

The delegation) will also be discuss Saudi Arabia's intenthion to join the Universal siCopyright Convention," one Gulf economist said. "Intellectual property rights are still a top priority io the (U.S.) administration."

The Wnrld Intellectual Property Organisation, which administers the Universal Copyright Convention and issues uniform standards to protect literary and artistic works from piracy, bas urged the GCC to join its conventions.

At a seminar in Abu Dhabi in May in international federation of the phonographic industry report said factories throughout the Gulf "produce thousands of unauthorised music and viden recordings" for sale in the region and Afri-

Economists qunted U.S. industry figures estimating it forgoes revenues of \$117 million to \$156 million a year from infringements in Saudi Arabia and the UAE, the biggest markets.

They did not say whether the figure applied to books, tapes, software or a combination of pirated goods. Total GCC and U.S. trade reached \$24 billion

Qadhafi says he doesn't care if oil price is zero

TUNIS (R) — Libyan leader Muammer Qadhafi defying the threat of tougher sanctions from the West, said be did not care if the price of oil fell to zero, the nificial Libyan news agency JANA reported Friday.

"We welcome the tumble of oil prices, even if they reach zero," the agency quoted him as saying at a rally in the eastern Libyan city of Benghazi Thursday.

"We thank God when we see oil prices collapse, because we want to prove that oil no longer matters to us, and that our interest would be served if oil did not even exist, because they (the West) believe that they can use oil to make us submit," Colonel Qadbafi

"The Libyan people can live without oil but they cannot live without independence, dignity and sovereignty," he declared.

Libya, a member of the Organisation of Petroleum Exporting Countries, is already under mild trade sanctions from the U.N. Security Countries.

Solidere flotation raises \$926 million

BEIRUT (R) — Solidere, the company that will rebuild warshattered central Beirut, has said its share flotation raised \$926 million from Lebanese and Arab investors.

Announcing the resolt of the offer which closed Monday, Nasser Chamaa, head of the board of founders, said it raised \$600 million from

Lebanese citizens and \$326 million from non-Lebanese

"What we have accomplished... may be the largest public share offering ever in the Middle East," Mr. Chamaa told a news conference.

It was "a clear statement of faith by the Lebanese in the future of their country and its

The total far exceeded the \$650 million offer by Solidere, the Lebanese Company for the Reconstruction and Development of Beirut Central Dis-

trict.
Mr. Chamaa said all subscriptions by Lebanese would be accepted and the non-Lebanese Arab contribution would be cut back to \$50 million. Some \$276 million would be returned to Arab investors.

The offer was open only to Lebanese and non-Lebanese Arabs.

Mr. Chamaa said a shareholders assembly would establish the company soon and trading in the shares would then start.

British interest rates on hold, minister says

LONDON (R) — British interest rates are on bold and a further cut is unlikely, Treasury Minister Anthony Nelson said after a spate of economic reports Wednesday.

Speaking on Channel 4 television Mr. Nelson said the government "was content with the present monetary stance and the present level nf interest rates is satisfactory in terms of continuing to bear down on inflation."

Mr. Nelson was speaking after Chancellor of the Exchequer (Finance Minister) Kenneth Clarke and Bank of England Governor Eddie George met to discuss economic policy, and after unemplnyment figures for December sbowed a sharp 46,800 fall to 2.77 mil-

lion, nr 9.8 per cent of the workforce.

Mr. Nelson's comments confirmed a growing belief in

firmed a growing belief in financial markets that the goverument will delay further cuts in base lending rates, which currently stand at 5.5 per cent. The treasury's monthly monetary report on the eco-

The treasury's monthly monetary report on the economy published Wednesday said economic recovery remains on course and retail sales growth looks strong.

Economists said Britaio is on

Economists said Britaio is on course to achieve the government's forecast of a 2.5 per cent increase in gross domestic product (GDP) this year, with growth gradually accelerating throughout the year.

throughout the year.

But economists believe a rate cut still remains on the

agenda to offset charp tax rises due in April which will cost the average family an extra £10 (\$14.97) a week.
"I think we will see a balf

point rate cut but not until the end of March," said Darren Winder, economist at Warburg Securities in London. But there is one big factor

which could prompt the authorities to opt for a rate cut sooner than the markets expect — the strength of sterling. Exporters complain about

the loss of their complain about the loss of their competitiveness when sterling rises above 2.60 marks and sustained strength above that level could yet prompt an early cut, economists said.

Employment Secretary David Hunt said unemploy-

ment was now on a firm downward trend, and be contrasted the improvement in the British economy with the continuing slump in continental Europe.

"The United Kingdom is the only country in the European Uninn where unemployment

ulated labour market was to thank for that. In its monthly report on the economy published Wednes-

is... on a firm downward

trend," Mr. Hunt said, adding

that Britain's flexible, dereg-

day, the treasury said, "latest monthly indicators confirm the picture of further recovery," it pointed in particular to the job figures as well as rising retail sales and strong car sales. However, the Department

of Employment said jobs were still being shed in the manufacturing sector, and another big bank, National Westminister, announced fresh job cuts on Wednesday. Natwest is slicing another 4,000 jobs this year from its British workforce of 80,000, in addition to the 15,000 jnbs that have gone under a five-year plan due for completion this year.

Oo Monday, rival bank Barclays announced job cuts of 3,000 stretched over two years, again in addition to an existing redundancy programme. Many financial-sector firms are stepping up the introduction of new technology and shedding jobs.

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Latest data from the Department of Employment published Wednesday showed that 7,000 jobs were lost in manufacturing industry in November, but employment in the whole economy rose by 91,000 in the third quarter, boosted by job creation in the service sector.

Dollar expected to trade at DM 1.85 around midyear and 105 yen by end of '94

Officials in the Gulf said any

G. C-U.S. multilateral accord

wil centre on ensuring adequ-

ate mutual intellectual proper

There are negotiations with all of the GCC to agree on

doing the same thing which

would provide uniform protec-

tion," the economist said. Saudi Arabia, for example,

passed copyright laws in 1990 but they "do not protect fore-

ign works that are not first published in Saodi Arabia,"

one economist said. The UAE

passed copyright laws in 1992,

becoming the second of GCC

Bahrain's first copyright law

Oman has a 1987 trademark

law and is forming patent laws. Qatar has a trademark law

which economists say includes

patent protection. Both are

drafting copyright laws.
The talks in Riyadh will in-

clude the "white paper nn

U.S.-GCC economie and com-

mercial issues for the 1990s", a

U.S. memorandum submitted

to the GCC in 1992.

came into effect last June.

countries to do so.

rights protection.

This article is submitted by Naser Nabulsi, private client group, Merrill Lynch-Dubai

Overview

Fundamental view: After surging to the DM 1.74 and yen 113 levels in early January, the dollar has paused as favourable U.S. inflation data and evidence of only moderate jnb growth call into question when the Fed will need to move toward tighter monetary policy. With our U.S. analysts emphasising prospects for better-than-consensus growth in 1994, we remain positive on the dollar's prospects against European currencies. We are looking for the dollar to reach the DM/U.S.\$ 1.80 level in 3 months and to trade at the DM/U.S.\$ 1.85 level around midyear. But the yen should be surprisingly resilient this year since we expect Japan's current account surplus to remain large. Although further yen weakness would not be surprising in the near term, our 12-month target for the yen is JPY/U.S.\$

Technical view: The week ended Jan. 7 was not a particularly good week for the U.S. dollar as five of the six currencies we regularly monitor posted gains against the greenback. The dollar was only able to manage a 0.2 per cent rally against the Japanese yen. The net result was a 0.8 per cent week-to-week decline in the dollar index. Things may not get easier for the index as the sentiment environment is get easier for the index as the sentiment environment is unature and both sbort and medium term oscillators are mature and peaking. This, coupled with the proximity of potentially important resistance at 97.50-98.00, suggests that a top is near. Thus, the medium term outlook continues to R favour the currencies. Nearby support is just above 94.00, with in benchmark support at 90.29.

Deutschemark

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Lars

Fundamental view: The dollar surged to the DM 1.74 level in early January in response to evidence of robust growth in the U.S. in contrast to persistent weakness in Germany. Recent strength in U.S. residential construction, durable equipment, and consumer confidence all suggest that fourth quarter growth may have been as bigh as 6 per cent at an annual rate. The dollar has stalled a bit in recent days in response to favourable data on U.S. inflation and evidence of only modest job growth that calls into question when the Fed at will need to tighten. But the case for lower German interest rates remains compelling. German industrial production fell by 2.1 per cent in November to a new cyclical lnw, suggesting that the economy is faltering again after two positive quarters in 1993. The west German economy contrasted 1.9 per cent in 1993, the sharpest decline in output since Wnrld War II. Wage settlements are expected to be moderate.

We expect the Bundesbank to cut official interest rates by 0.5 per cent at either the Jan. 20 council meeting or in early February, and look for German 3-month money rates to fall to 4.0 per cent or less by the end of this year compared with 5.5

per cent currently. With our U.S. economists looking for above consensus-growth of as much as 3.5 per cent in 1994, we recently revised upward our projected path for the U.S. dollar against the Deutschemark. We maintain our 12-month target of DM/U.S.\$ 1.85, and expect the dollar to reach the DM/U.S.\$ 1.80 level in 3 month.

Technical view: Deutschemark gained 0.5 per cent versus the U.S. dollar last week. While shirit term sentiment is near overbought, medium term sentiment is near oversold. Both near and medium term momentum are in varying stages of bottoming; this, coupled with medium term sentiment and support near 1.75 DM/U.S.\$, suggests that there is ample evidence for a potentially meaningful rally. In that regard, resistance for the currency is indicated at 1.65-1.66 DM/U.S.\$. However, with the primary trend remaining weak, surprises are likely to be to the downside, and longer term objectives remain at 1.75 and beyond.

The mark/yen cross continues to trade in the 64-65 area. Both short and medium term mnmentum have been weak, although the latter is showing some sign of bottoming. Nonetheless, this, plus potential medium term strength in the yen, suggests that the foundation for a second leg of decline in the cross rate — with a possible test of the August lows below 60 — is quite possible.

Japanese yen

Fundamental view: Good inflation data and evidence of only moderate job growth in the U.S. has called into question when the Fed will need to move towards tighter monetary policy. This has helped the yen stabilise at the 112 level after declining in recent weeks. Upbeat economic data from the U.S. stands in sharp contrast to bleak economic news from Japan. This contrast has contributed to bearish sentiment toward the yen in recent weeks. Japan's economy appears to have contracted in the fourth quarter and we expect the Bank of Japan to cut its discount rate soon by 0.5 per cent to a record low of 1.25 per cent. Even though U.S. inflation remains subdued, stronger U.S. growth supports the case for a tightening of Fed policy in the first quarter. That prospect has brought across-the-board dollar strength in recent weeks as investors focus on the favourable trend in short-term interest rate differentials between the U.S. and Japan.

We have adjusted upward our projected path for the U.S. dollar this year, but still think the yen will rise again as trade and current account developments overshadow interest rate and business cycle factors. Japan recorded a huge \$17 billion ontilow of long-term capital in November. If that pace in capital notiflow — which we view as unsustainable — continued to December it would help explain the yen's recent weakness. We look for the yen to trade at the JPY/U.S.\$ 105 level in 12 months.

Technical view: The Japanese yen was the only currency of the six that we regularly monitor that lost ground against the U.S. dollar last week. At present, short term sentiment is near overbought, but medium term sentiment is oversold. At the same time, short term momentum is boltmming, while medium term oscillators will likely require a move back through 111/U.S.\$ to turn back up again. Since we continue to believe that the yen's weakness since last July is a counter trend move that the yen's weakness since last July is a counter trend move a normal reaction should be limited to the 113-114 range and almost certainly not beyond 116-117. A penetration of that latter level would allow for a full retracement of the 1993 rally. Nearby resistance is 108-109.

Pound Sterling

Fundamental view: The British pound surged to a six-month high against the Deutschemark, reaching DM/: 2.61. Sterling also rose against the dollar to USD/: 1.50. The pound is already above our 3-month forecast of DM/: 2.60, and close to our 12-month projection of DM/: 2.65. Recent evidence of bnoyant consumer spending and a much sharper than expected fall in December unemployment gave rise to expectations that the U.K. government will decide against an early cut in interest rates. If the pound soars further, however, the Bank of England would be pressured to cut rates to protect the competitiveness of U.K. exporters. We continue to expect a 50 basis point rate cut later this year to offset fiscal contraction. We believe that faster growth poses little inflation risk to an economy with substantial spare capacity.

We are projecting a further rise in the pound versus the currencies of continental Europe in 1994 because the U.K. economy is expected to grow at above-trend 2.7 per cent compared to below 1 per cent on the continent. We expect short-term continental European rates to decline by a further 175 basis points by the end of 1994. We are forecasting pound depreciation to U.S. 3/: 1.43 in 12 months as U.S. short-term interest rates rise by 50 to 75 basis points by the end of 1994.

Technical view: The British pound rallied 0.9 per cent versus the U.S. dollar during the week ended Jan. 7. The currency continues to trade within a 1.47-1.51 U.S./: range while both short and medium term momentum oscillators appear to be bottnming. Similarly, both short and medium term sentiment indicators are at or near oversold readings. Our long-standing support/resistance parameters remain unebanged: A break down through \$1.46-\$1.47 would imply a potential test of important long term support at \$1.40-\$1.42, while a rally through \$1.55 would set the stage for a challenge of long term resistance at \$1.60.

The relative strength of sterling is reflected in the DM cross-rate, which has recently tested lung-standing resistance at 2.59. While, short term momentum is constructive, medium term oscillators appear to be peaking. This would suggest that while still higher highs are possible over the near term, an intermediate peak is not that far off. Nearby support exists at 2.53-2.54.

HOROSCOPE

FORECAST FOR SATURDAY JANUARY 15, 1994

By Thomas S. Pierson, Astrologer, Carroll Righter Foundation

GENERAL TENDENCIES:
Allow time to engage in your favourite hobby today as you mull over long range possibilities and put the recent past io clear perspective. Don't allow a worrywart m intrude into your crowdedspace.

ARIES: (March 21 to April 19)

and tonight that will help you to clear up your affairs as well as make possible many moments with those you truly like. TAURUS: (April 20 to May 20) Be sure to handle important

Many unusual events occur today

Be sure to handle important affairs that family demand or you have trouble in the future. Be basic and you gel excellent results.

GEMINI: (May 21 to hope 21)

GEMINI: (May 21 to June 21) While today's mail may hold pretty excitog things, remain calm and sensible since tomortow's prespently may depend upon h.

MOON CHILDREN: (June 22 to

July 21) By contacting and listening carefully to experts in business and financial circles, you
can today start a whole new
upswing in all of your affairs.

LEO: (July 22 to August 21) Get
busy at activities that bring far
greater success and the fame you
desire. Evening is particularly
fine for making new contacts
socially that will be very helpful
in the future.

VIRGO: (August 22 to September 22) Be quiet study into new outlets, you find that you can

soon start an uptrend in all of your affairs, but be very sure you keep ideas secret or they can be pirated.

LIBRA: (September 23 to October, 22) An unexpected and welcome invitation can be your, -today. Accept it eagerly and be very social. Meet new friends through old ones and thereby make the future brighter, hap-

pier.

SCORP10: (October 23 to November 21) This is an excellent day to contact powerful individuals with regard 'o your special talents and also to make a fice impression on the public.

SAGITTARIUS: (November 22 to December 21) Look into new systems and outlets on this free

ability and wisdom in keeping up with the times.

CAPRICORN: (December 22 to January 20) Contact an expert for the wisest and most unique way in solve that personal problem that is vexing you during this

day and impress nthers with your

period of time.

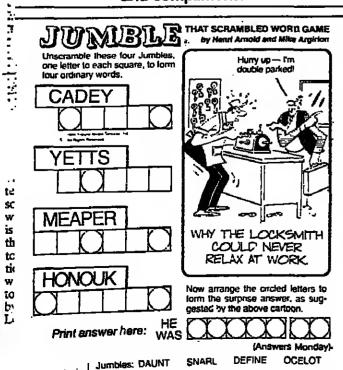
AQUARIUS: (January 21 to February 19) Take advantage of opportunity afforded you today to cement ties with far-sighted partners at social affairs or places

of recreation.

PISCES: (February 20 to March 20) By being cheerful, you get a whole new ootlook on future plans and activities. Discuss ideas with fellow associates informally.

THE BETTER HALF, By Harris HARRIS

"It's a special type of hearing aid. It only lets you hear kind words and compliments!"



Answer: Another name for a negative porsonality — A 'NO' IT ALL

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Andy Capp



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Financial Markets

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GRAND TOTAL

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Jordan Times, Cairo Amman Bank U.S. Dollar in International Markets

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Swiss Fram	1.4035	1.4655
French Franc	5.8960	5.8982**
Japanese Yen	112.27	112.30
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U.S. Dellar	3.00	3.19	3.31	3.56	
Sterling Pound	5.37	5.34	5.18	5.12	
Deutsche Mark	6.00	5.81	5.50	5.16	
Swiss Franc	3.93	5.81	3.72	5.52	
French Franc	0.31	6.15	5.85	5.45	
Japanese Ven	2.28	2.15	2.00	1.93	
European Carrency Unit	6.50	6.25	6.00	5.50	

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Gold	385.35	7.55	Silver	5.08	0.110

Date: 15/1/1994

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LONDON EXCHANGE RATES

LONDON (R) — Following are the buying and selling rates for leading world currencies and gold against the dollar at midsession on the London Foreign Exchange and bullion markets.

8.1643/43

7.5400/50

6.7740/90

\$1.4925/35 \$390,30/390.80

U.S. \$1.00 costs 1.3168/78 1.7481797 1.9586/96 1.4810/20 36.49/53 5.9355/05 1705.8/7.3 111.25/35

Canadian dollar Deutschemarks Dutch guilders Swiss francs Belgian francs French francs Italian lire Japanese yen Swedisb crowns Norwegian crowns Danish crowns

Arabs to discuss economic reforms this month

officials will gather in the United Arab Emirates (UAE) this month to discuss reforms they launched five years ago to revive their economies that have been smothered by state control and wars.

The Jan. 25-26 cooference, to be attended by experts from the World Bank and International Monetary Fund (IMF), will focus on the role of financial policies and stock markets in reforms, the Arab Monetary Fund (AMF) said.

"It will cover the role of financial reforms in economic reform programmes in Arab countries and development of burgeoning stock markets to facibiate investment flow," it said in a statement.

The Abu Dhabi-based fund is sponsoring the meeting, part of its attempts to encourage reforms in its members after their economic problems persisted despite large cash in-flow, which exceeded \$370 bil-

Egypt, Jordan, Morocco and other Arab states have carried out reforms, including privatisation, but the process has

Decades of state control, political instability and mis-maoagement of funds have kept the economies of most Arab nation, except the oilrieb countries in the Gulf, under stress, with their foreign debt steadily rising to more than \$150 billion in 1991 from

around \$115 billion in 1985. Debt servicing also in-creased to around \$16.8 billion from \$10.4 billion in the same period. Other economie problems include slow growth, bigh unemployment rates, low investments and budget deficits, and a persistent gap in trade and balance of paymeots.

yield results in some Arab states but more steps are still needed," the AMF said in a report.

"The reforms bave started to

eased, with the foreign debt of Arab states, except Libya, Iraq, Algeria and Gulf nations, declining by three per cent to 108 per cent of their gross domestie product. Debt servicing also dropped to 18.9 per cent from 21 per cent of their

The report said Arab states which have no stock markets needed to open floors to en-

LONDON (AFP) - British

Aerospace (BAE) said Friday

it would cut 830 jobs this year

with 580 of them going at its

regional jets division in order

to maintain competitiveness in

The British group said it would cut the bulk of the jobs

at its 3,000-strong Avro divi-sion plant at Woodford in

northwest England, "in order

to remain as competitive as

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a difficult market.

exports.

sure the success of reforms.

League's 22 members have stock exchanges but most of them have remained dull as they are closed to foreign investors. More than 1,100 banks and companies trade their shares in those markets and their market capitalisation stood at around \$35 billion in

Economie reforms in the Arab region gained momen-tum after the Gulf war, which

British Aerospace to cut 830 jobs possible in a market that is still in recession," a spokesman

said. A total of 150 jobs would be lost at its plant at Chadderton, near Manchester also in the northwest, the group said. BAE said it hoped the redundancies would be agreed voluntarily but said some

might have to be forced. The move was "not directly connected" to the suspension states and consequently hit their aid to fellow league members, depriving them from a key source of income.

Official figures showed the six Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) states — Saudi Arabia, Bahrain, Oman, Qatar, Kuwait and the UAE — gave only around \$4 billion in the two years that followed the Gulf war compared with an

tween 1980 and 1984. of its year-long negotiations with the Taiwan Aerospace

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Corporation (TAC) over plans to form a joint-venture in the regional jets business. We have not yet reached an agreemeot," BAE said "but we are still in contact with them." "We are not negotiating at the moment," the

spokesman admitted, "but we

intend to start negotiations

again. We don't know when."

average \$6 billion a year in the

The aid began to decline

when oil prices weakened in

the second half of 1980s. It

stood at around \$14 billion

between 1985 and 1989 com-

pared with \$30.4 billion be-

early 1980s.

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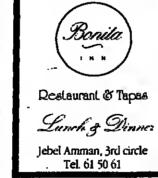




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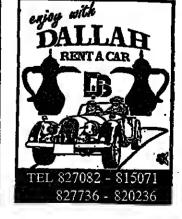
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Mystery face of

revealed

'Bounty' mutineer

police have produced a soph. sticated photo-fit likeness of

true appearance had remained

a mystery. Police in the north-

ern city of Liverpool came up

with the computer-enhanced

image after artist Jerry Gor-

don, 38, presented them with

portraits of Christian's ances-

tors and photographs of the

mariner's descendents unear-

Gordon said he became fascin-

ated with the tale after seeing

the Gable film of the mutiny

when he was a teenager. "I even went to the South Pacific

and lived on Pitcairn with a family descended from Fletch-

er Christian," he said. Pitcaim is the remote island where the

mutineers ended up after re-belling against Bbgh's order to set sail from Tahiti where his crew had been enjoying the

easy life for six months.

Another important clue to

Christian's appearance was the

description given by Bligh, who was set adrift by the mutineers. He described him

as a swarthy well-built man about five feet nine inches

(1.75 m) tall with Polynesian

also have no idea what the real

man looked like. Bu: they will

have to wait at least another

five weeks to see the photo-fit .

likeness. It will be flown 12,000 miles (19,000 km) to New Zea-

land and then be taken by boat another 4,000 miles (6,500 km)

Holst mourned as peace broker

O\$LO (R) — Norwegian Foreien Minister Jahan Joergen folst, who died unexpectedly Thursday, was mourned around the world as a vital force behind the historic peace deal between Israel and the

Mr. Holst, 56, in hospital to recover from a stroke last month, apparently died from a new stroke during the night. nis doctor said. He had worked tirelessly in 1993, when Norway hosted at least 14 secret meetings hetween the PLO and Israe).

Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhak Rahin said: "The state of Israel will remember Johan' Jorgen Holst as the person who succeeded in bringing the distant tacether, in overcoming the enmity of generations and in laying foundations for peace in the Middle East."

In Tunis. PLO Chairman Yasser Arafat said in a message of condolence: "This is a big loss... We lost with his early departure one of the sincerest friends of our Palestinian people."

He said Mr. Holst's efforts

had enabled the Palestine Liberation Organisation [PLO] and Israel to recognise each other. The two sides signed a deal on limited Palestinian autonomy in the Gaza Strip and West Bank town of Jericho in Washington last September. At that time, Mr. Holst said

he felt humbled by what he called "a little role" in the U.S. Secretary of State War ren Christopher praised Mr. Holst as 'a man of high ideals

and integrity" who helped lay the groundwork for the peace He said in a statement durng a visit to Moscow that Mr. Holst's "personal commitment to teconciliation and peace in

the Middle East will stand as a work of hope and life for the people of the region." He said Mr. Holst had belped create the environment that made possible the agreement between the Palestine

Liberation Organisation "Foteign Minister Holst's Norway's shores made him a

nurturing of the hopes for peace of peoples fat flung from symbol of Norway's own values," he said. Mr. Christopher said he

learned of Mr. Holst's death! "with the deepest sorrow." "f worked closely with Johan and knew him to be a man of high ideals and integrity. He will be sorely missed. Our thoughts are with his family and the people of Norway, lhe said.

Flags flew at half mast throughout Norway and Prime Minister Gro Harlem Brundtland began a cabinet meeting with a mioute's silence after paying tribute to Mr. Holst and

The PLO said it had decided to name a main road and a square in Jericho after Mr. Holst and would send a highranking delegation to his funeral. No date has vet been

Mr. Holst suffered a stroke on Dec. 16, hut was moved Wednesday from the National Hospital in central Oslo to Sunnaas Hospital outside the city — on helief he was over the worst.

Before his first stroke last month, he had spent a week in hospital suffering from exhaustion after a hectic autumn during which he said he barely

This week he was nominated hy a German politician for the 1994 Nobel Peace Prize. But the Norwegian guardians of the prize are barred by a 1974

rule from awarding it posthumously. The late U.N. Secretary General. Dag Hammarskjold. was the only peace laureate to win posthumously, in 1961.

Although the peace deal was signed in Washington in Septembet, Israel and the PLO are still wrangling over how to implement it.

Mr. Holst and four other Norwegian mediators, including his wife Marianne Heiberg. a Middle East researcher, pro vided Istaeli and PLO negotiators with an informal family

almosphete in the sectet meet-A formet defence minister with an encyclopaedic knowledge of international affaits. Mr. Holst became foreign

minister in April. it was oot clear who would

replace Mr. Holst.

Norway's Army: Olovo fight could decide fate of Bosnia

TUZLA. Bosnia-Hetzegovina (AP) — Serbs fought Muslimled government troops northeast of Sarajevo Friday in what a Bosnian army spokesman called a "life or death" hattle that could decide the war.

Both sides poured huge teinforcements into frontline fighting near Olovo and Vares, said the spokesman. Ekrem Avdic. The Serbs are trying to sever

a sleeve of government-held territory before a new round of peace talks on Jan. 18. If part of the corridor is captured it would cut off other Muslimheld towns from reinforcement and might force Bosnian gov-ernment acceptance of the U.N.-sponsored peace plan.

The Serhs are pushing northwest toward their holding in northern Bosnia. If successful. they will cut off the government strongholds of Tuzla and Zenica from each other and other government-held territory to the south.

Tuzla is a Muslim stronghold whose pre-war population of 130,000 hs more than tripled with refugees, most U.N. aid to Tuzla comes in from Serbia. and access depends on Bosnian Serbs controlling northern Bosnia

"A decisive hattle is taking place now," Mr. Avdie told the

NEWS IN BRIEF

MOSCOW IR) - The lower chamber of Russia's new

parliament elected as its speaker Friday a Communist hostile

to President Boris Yeltsin's market economic reforms. Ivan

Rybkin, a member of the Agrarian Bloc with an orthodox

Communist background, won 223 votes in a secret poll, giving

him the overall majority he needed for the post. His rival,

nationalist formet weightlifter Yuri Vlasov, had effectively

withdrawn from the race just before the final run-off vote.

saying he was going to back Mt. Ryhkin. Rybkin's election

and the failure of any pro-reform candidate to reach the final

vote will be a blow to Mr. Yeltsin and underline the difficulties

he faces in the legislature he created. In conceding in favour of

Mr. Rybkin, Mt. Vlasov demonstrated a cooperation across

nationalist-Communist lines that pro-reform groups dramati-

BANGKOK (R) - Thirty-seven people wete killed in

northern Thailand Friday when a coach and an 18-wheel truck

crashed head-on at full speed, police said. The vehicles burned

fietcely and it took rescue workers six hours to extract the

bodies, they said. "Some victims were reduced to ashes," a

police officet told reporters. Highway police in Tak province.

420 kilomettes north of Bangkok, said the crash occurred

about I a.m. A foreign couple, either Chinese or Japanese,

operated the bus, said 36 people were aboard when it left the

northern city of Chiangmai for Bangkok. There were 32

passengers, two drivers, a bus boy and a hostess. The drivet and two others in the truck, which was carrying dry cement.

were crushed to death, police said. Two Thai bus passengers were thrown from the vehicle and were being treated at a local

NEW DELHI (R) — At least 39 people were killed and 29

injured when a bus fell into a river in the eastern Indian state

of Bihat, the United News of India news agency said. It said

the bus, which was taking pilgrims to a Hindu religious fair,

crashed through a bridge railing. The dead included 18 women

PARIS (R) - China's foreign minister will visit Paris this

month in a thaw in relations that France hopes will yield

lucrative contracts, but which the Socialist opposition and the

far right criticised as humiliating. Diplomatic sources said

Foreign Minister Oian Qichen's trip signalled return to

friendlier ties after France promised in a joint statement

Wednesday to stop selling arms to Taiwan. Socialist opposi-

tion leader Michel Rocard accused the conservative govern-

ment of dishonouring France and extreme right National Front

leader Jean-Marie Le Pen said Paris was grovelling to a

"corrupt and discredited Communist regime." But French

newspapers welcomed the reconciliation as economically

realistic, if inelegant. To end a 15-month virtual economic

boycott by Beijing over France's sale of advanced Mirage fighters to Taipei. France pledged Wednesday not to sell more

weapous to Taiwan and reaffirmed that it recognised China's

claim to Taiwan. "It is unintelligent, a miscalculation and

undignified." Mr. Rocard. a former prime minister, told

Europe I Radio. "France has dishonoured itself." In Beijing.

Foreign Ministry spokesman Wu Jianmin said China helieved

MOSCOW (AFP) - Russia's 14th expedition to the orbiting

space station Mir returned to earth Friday in Kazakhstan

aboard a Soyuz spacecraft carrying two cosmonauts who spent

197 days in space. Vassily Tsybliyev and Alexander Serebrov

carried out experiments for the Academy of Sciences here and

for foreign firms, ITAR-TASS news agency reported. Russian

radio said the Soyuz had struck the Mir during a final

inspection by the cosmonauts, but there was no confirmation

from flight control at from Baikonu- nor from the military's

space division. Tsyblivey and Serebroy were replaced in the

Mir station by cosmonauts Yuri Usachov, Viktor Afanasiev

and Valery Poliakov who had hlasted off aboard a Soyuz

spacecraft from Baikonur last Saturday. Poliakov, a doctor,

will try to stay in space for 427 days to beat the current world

GREENBELT. Md (R) - New images from the Hubble

space telescope show that the space-walking mission to repair

ils blurred vision succeeded beyond NASA's own expecta-

tions, space agency chief Daniel Goldin said Thursday, "It is

exceeding what out goal was... the spacecraft is operating beyond out ambition." Mt. Goldin told a news conference.

"The Itouble with Hubble is ovet." said Senator Barbata

Mikulski, a Maryland Democrat who heads a key congression-

al panel that monitors the National Aetonauties and Space

Administration (NASA). Mr. Golden and Gen. Mikulski

appeared at a news conference at the Goddard Space Flight

Centre outside Washington, where the space agency was

releasing the first images from the telescope since its repair by

Hubble repair 'exceeds goals'

NASA astronauts a month ago.

Russian spacecraft returns to earth

ties with France would improve gradually.

tecord of 366 days.

39 killed in Indian road accident

Chinese minister to visit France

The Chaivasit Tout Company, which

cally failed to muster in early votes.

37 die in Thai coach accident

Pro-Communist leads Russian Duma

Associated Press. "It's a battle for Bosnia-Herzegovina. actually. IT they can cut us in pieces, it would be easiet to deal with us.

"We're expecting a fight for life or death. There are huge forces on hoth sides." said Mr. Avdic, whose Bosnian army 2nd Corps is responsible for the Olovo area. "We reinforced all frontlines because we are aware of the importance of this front line for the

entire state.

The Serb army claimed Thursday that its troops sent Muslim-led government soldiers fleeing after breaching defence lines near Olovo. 25 miles (40 kilometres) north of the capital, Saraievo. The Bosnian government denied that and said its lines of defence were stable.

Bosnian Radio said more than 1.000 shells hit Olovo's southern front Thursday. It also reported clashes on fronts further east.

Tuzla came under sporadic shelling Thursday that left at least three people dead and four wounded.

The United Nations have for months pressed Scrbs open Tuzla's airport to allow more aid in, but the Serbs have refused, opening the airport would permit an airlift similar to the one keeping Satajevo

The Setbs have Tuzla and its aiport within artillery range. and have shown no signs of bending despite NATO indica-lions it would bomb Serb positions if the airport remained closed. However. Serbs have con-

ceded on another NATO demand and wetc permitting the rotation of U.N. troops from besieged Srebrenica. 70 kilometres (40 miles) southcast of Tuzla, U.N. peacekeeper spokesman Lt. Col. Bil Aikman said.

The United Nations for weeks has been trying to re-place about 150 candidates with Dutch peacekeepers. In a separate battle, govern-

ment troops fought house tohouse their campaign against Bosnian Croats in the Vitez-Busovaca pocket. Croat forces used helicop-

ters and jets in central Bosnia on Thursday and early Friday helicopters directed jets firing on a government ammunition factory." Mr. Aikman said.

Bosnian government troops have recently made advances in central Bosnia, squeezing Bosnian Croats into two cn-

French left mobilises against

Balladur PARIS (AFP) - The French left is pressing ahead with plans for a massive demonstration here Sunday after claiming victory in a row with the conservative government over private school funding.

The left hoped to convert a try into a goal after the nine wise men' of France's Constitutional Court cancelled the key part of a controversial education bill that had revived the country's long-running "schools war.

The Paris demonstration was originally planned to protest the new legislation which granted unlimited use of public funds to the country's private, mainly Catholic, schools.

But the court slapped down, ruling that the central article of the bill was unconstitutional because it upset the balance between the state and private school systems.

A crowd of between 300,000 and 350,000 was expected to march through the city for most of the day Junday, grooping teachers, students and parents' associations, trade unions and freemasons as well as Socialists and Communists.

Organisers hired 66 special trains and 1,800 buses to bring demonstrators into the capital from the provinces.

The court ruling was the left's first victory over conservative Prime Minister Edourard Balladur since it was heavily defeated in legislative elections last March.

Socialist Party leader Michel Rocard is eager to capitalise on the win as bis party prepares for a series of conferences aimed at building a broad centre-left coalition ahead of next year's presidential elec-

Mr. Rocard termed the ruling a "victory" for the left and renewed his calls for a big turnout Sunday.

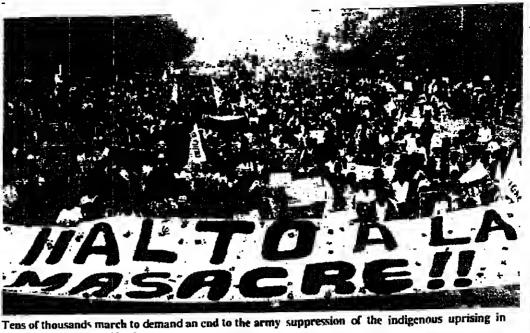
Mr. Balladur, who had come under fire from both left and right after the education bill was rushed through the Senate last month in the middle of the night, beat a hasty retreat after the court ruling.

Government spokesman Nicolas Sarkozy said it would be "imprudent" to submit a new education bill for th emoment while Education Minister Francois Bayrou called for "dialogue" and said he wanted to "restore the self-confidence of

the state education system." One reason for going ahead with Sunday's demonstration was the difficulty of calling it off at short notice, but Mr. Balladur will be carefully watching the turnout and hoping that the cancellation of the law will dampen enthusiasm.

It was undoubtedly a reversal for the prime minister but this was preferable to being forced to defend an increasingly indefensible corner, analysts

Although Mr. Bailadur has been consistently popular in opinion polls since become prime minister in April, the schools law was definitely unpopular, with most people beheving that additional funds for private schools could only come at the expense of the Public school system.



Chiapas, Mexico (AFP photo)

Mexican envoy seeks talks with rebels

SAN CRISTOBAL DE LAS CASA. Mexico [R] — Mexico's Peace Commissioner Manuel Camacho Solis pursued peace talks with rehels who have staged a bloody uprising in the impoverished southern state of Chiapas.

Mr. Camachn met with church and indigenous representatises here in his quest to find the clusive Zapatista National Liberation Army (EZLN) and hinted that he

was nearing a breakthrough.
"In the course of yesterday and this murning I have received one or two messages through people, the first signs of a possibility of communication have appeared. Mr. Camacho told a news confet-

"The next communication we will make - unless there is some important news - will be at 10 a.m. [Friday], he said.

Mr. Camacho, a close ally of President Carlos Salinas De Gottari, was Mexico's foreign minister hefore being named in his new post Monday. Mote than 114) people have

died in battle, between the 2,000-string peasant army and the Mexican army, but there. was little news of combat

SYDNEY (R) — The worst

fite crisis in Australia in 2001

years is ovet, telieved fitefigh-

ters said Ftiday.
"We've won", newspapet

aged Sydney.

weckend.

posters screamed in Hicknight

Hundreds of teinforcement

fitelighters who were flown.

bused and trucked into the

state of New South Wales to

battle more than IXI out-of-

control blazes over the past 16

days will be sent home on the

"I caan say the worst is

ovet." Phil Koperbetg, com-

mander of the state's Bushfire

Services, said Friday, "The cri-

tical threat to communities

around the state is over, but

the mopping up is still to be

done. It has been hell."

were under control.

President Salinas called a unilateral army ceasefire Wednesday, ordering troops to fire only if attacked by the He described his action as "a

message of reconciliation peace and respect for human rights," adding that he would pardon guerrillas who lay down their arms. Residents of the tourist city

of San Cristobal De Las Casas. the first town seized by the rebels on Jan. 1, held a peace march Wednesday in the culonial town square. testaurants

Shops and reopened and business activities appeated to return to normal as aptimism prevailed on the second day of the ceasefire.

But there were fears about what human rights workers might find as they began their exploration of the small communities in the conflict zone. "I think there were a lot of

executions in Ocosingo." a small town some 60 kilomettes from San Ctistohal, said Atturo Solis, of the Centre for Frontiet Studies and Promotion of Human Rights of Reynosa in the northern state of Tamaulipas. Ocusingo saw some of the heaviest fighting in

The infetnos, which killed

fout people, destroyed about

200 homes and burned 600,000

hectates (1.5 million actes) of

land, have caused about \$100

million in damage. 🕪 🙉 🗸 💀

As firefighters mopped up.

Australia began an outpouring

this country execpt in the

ationalism rarety

ovet the world.

the first few days of the up-He said there continued to

be a heavy military presence in many towns that frightened the inhabitants. Mr. Camacho stressed the

language difficulties involved in negotiating with indigenous people. Each of our Western words.

each of the words in the world media, does not necessarily have the same meaning for the indigenous communities in the mountains of Chiapas." he He was accompanied part of

the day Thursday by representatives of the American Indian Movement, the U.S. Indian activist group which has come to Mexico to help Chiapas' indigenous people. The Zapatistas, many of

whom are descendants of the ancient Mayan civilisation, say they are fighting for indigenous rights and the teturn of their ancestral lands.

The rehels take their name from Mexican revolution heru Emiliano Zapata and have issued calls from peace talks. hut only under conditions that include a ceasefire and their army returning to its bases.

crisis over

relativism or sexual threat?

Cultural

to the tiny island.

NEW YORK (R) - A student suspended from exclusive Swarthmore College after allegations of sexual intimidation has been denied admission to New York's Columbia University. As part of an agree-ment with Swarthmore officials, Ewart Yearwood, an 18year-old Hispanic student, was to leave the Pennsylvania colwas found not guilty of sexual harassment of a female stadent, but the college president visaid Yearwood had intimidated her. Yearwood said the case was one of cultural misunderstanding, that as a Hispanic raised in New York, his manner might have been uninternationally threatening.

Man uses electric saw to... well, you read it

TAMPA, Florida (R) - A "As homes and parks burned Florida man said he cut off his and streets became infernos, a breed of hero we had forgotten penis with an electric saw this existed took up arms against weck because he always wanted to be a woman. Doctors at Tampa General Hospit-The newspaper ran a special al were unable to attach the 12-page lift-out listing the organ, a hospital spokes. names of 20,000 heroes and woman said. Bill Sconvers, 23. heroines. Its poster announcof Arcadia, Florida, performed the crude surgery on, himself evoked images of Australia's later saying to reporters: "I World War I soldiers, who always wanted to be a fought on the shores of Galliwoman." Because of the flood of phone calls, doctors ordered his hospital phone be turned off, so Sconyers was not available to elaborate. Doctors say he is in fair condition.

Country music to tackle rising rural AIDS

WASHINGTON (R) - Fortysix top country music singing stars unveiled a sweeping advertising campaign designed to prevent the spread of AIDS and targeting rural areas, where it is rapidly growing. Mary Chapin Carpenter, Mark Chesnutt, Garth Brooks, Clint Black, Willie Nelson and others will appear in the Break the silence" campaign. which urges AIDS education and prevention, including condom use and even abstinence. It's less explicit than government ads, in which a packaged condom leaps from a drawer, moves across a room and wriggles under the covers with an amorous couple.

Heartbreak leads to death on demand

ATHENS (R) - A Greek dentist found dead after being shot at point-blank range paid an assassin to kill her because she could not cope with her busband's extra-marital affair-Athens police said Georgia Vagena, 41, persuaded Matthcos Monselas to kill her for an unspecified amount of money.

Tasmania that destroyed 1,400 The battles against the latest fires have tovived images of

the first settlers, who artived here 200 years ago and carved a nation from a hostile cnvironment. ters who saved New South Wales (NSW) were not professionals but volunteers - plum-

"They are strangers who

saved us from hell," the Tele-

graph Mirror newspaper said.

the worst fires in memory."

ing the "honour roll of heroes"

sporting arena, while millions of dollars in donations to fire relief funds poured in from all bers, clerks, company directors, teachers. The country's media Friday "These fires have been so paid homage to firefightets. who it said exemplified the Australian spirit of

'mateship".

severe that for the first time Australia - as a nation - has come together as one to conduct a hattle against such a difficult, unpredictable force. New South Wales Premier John Fahey said. "The fires have been the

While many fires still burned across the state, all were in worst in living memory and have shown that in the face of unpopulated areas and most severe adversity. Australians Cooler temperatures and can work together to beat enormous odds." he said.

gentler winds over the past Bushfires, along with floods and drought, are part of the three days allowed firefighters to undertake extensive control Australian mythology. History burning, which deprives fires books are full of their death tolls. In 1938, 46 people died in Victoria in a bushfire outbreak. In 1967, 62 people died

of fuel, and water-homhing. New South Wales announced that its total ban on fites would be lifted at midnight Friday.

poli. Turkey. Homes-for-votes scandal hits Major "My provisional view is that ...

in an outbreak in the state of

Prime Minister John Major. recling under sex and financial seandals involving Conservative politicians, suffered a new blow when a leading Conservative local council was accused of homes-for-votes rigging. But Conservative Party

LONDON (R) - British

sources said ministers were now closing ranks to marshal a powerful fight-back against damaging revelations which have overshadowed Britain's economic recovery and undermined Mr. Majot's "hack-tobasics" moral crusade.

"I came back (from ahroad) to find a kind of hystetia spreading with allegations which are unsustainable against any political party inthis country that suddenly we've abandoned our stan-dards and principles, said Chancellor of the Exchequer (Finance Minister) Kenneth

An opinion poll in Friday's Daily Telegraph made gloomy reading for the embattled prime ntinister. It said 46.5 pet cent of vaters now backed the opposition Labour Party, compared with waning Civiservative support at 25.5 per cent.

Auditor John Magill said members and officers of Westminstet Council in central Landon, including a Conservative member of pathament, manipulated council hnuse sales in help the Consetvatives to win local elections.

the council was engaged in gerrymandering, which I am minded to find is a disgraceful and improper purpose, and not a purpose for which a local authority may act," he said. He called the scheme unlaw-

ful and said it had cust taxpayers £21 million 1\$31.4 million), but Mr. Major said the auditor's findings were pro-visional and it was wrong to assume that those named were guilty of malptactice. Mr. Magill's report could

not have come at a worse time for Mr. Major, whose efforts to capture the moral high ground with a "hack to hasies" campaign for family values were already backfiring. "Recent tittle-tattle about whose trousers have been

found around whose ankles is politically insignificant when set against this son of statement." said commentator Joe Rogaly The Independent newspaper

said in an editorial that Mr. Magill's findings eclipse "the sexual peccadilloes of Conservative MPA. One minister resigned this

month after fathering a child in an adulterous affair and another stepped down after the apparent suicide of his wife that the press linked to marital ttuuhles. In addition, a ministerial aide quit over a proper-

Hours after the Magill report came out Thursday, the influential 1922 Committee of Conservative Members of Parliament met Mr. Major and gave him its backing.
"We expressed our

wholehearted and unanimous support for the 'back to basics' values expounded by him." said its chairman. Sir Marcus Sara Keays, the former lover

of ex-minister Lord Parkinson. took a very different view when she addressed a London seminar on the family. She described "hack to basics" as a "sick joke." adding: "I speak from III years experience. Newspapers rounded on the

Majot government's plight with the tahloid Today saying: "It is about a party that has been in power too long... they all rose together. They are all sinking together. Sinking in a sea of scandal."

The biggest-selling daily Sun, normally an ardent supporter of Conservative governments, said: "If the Conservatives want to remain in powet they have got to clean up their act. And they must do it right away.

The sun, which devoted 13 pages to utging its readers to vote for Mt. Major in its edilion on general election day in April 1992, said: Today out eyes are wide open. We can see we have been conned."

LONDON (R) — British ing against the ship's infamous defined with col captain, William Bligh. Clark The Name Kerr Gable, Marlon Brando

Mel Gibson have all played from more case about the 1789 Mutiny, but his true appearance had recognized to the case with the appearance had recognized to the case with th derails. Eric Ec of Portians and Process that culminate thed during lengthy research. To

Thor that Curried a sault on Kerrisan Charles Skating Charles Detroit on Jan. Michael Schrut 10 days of speculation of the probability of Eckardi 21 general Jeff G

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HANEIRO (R) and finns scanda lanero looks set following the ope: conditional police inquiry ≱ latero police Illustry that they anderce to open report referees. ≥bekan Federa! Po Discogning the of

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19-32 2 10:

Belarus player wins Virginia Slims tourney

CHICAGO (AP) — Natalia , was missing a lot of balls. After Zvereva, whose tennis success has been shaped more by doubles, was not sure if she would

ever win a singles title again. It had been four years, and even though she is only 22, she didn't like her chances.

"It's not that I didn't believe in myself." the Belarus player said Sonday after winning the Virginia Slims of Chicago 6-3. 7-5 over Chanda Rubin. 'The competition is so much better

proved myself wrong, said Zvereva, who used a steady serve and a variety of shots, including a low-to-the ground slice backhand to offset the hard ground strokes of the 17-year-old Rubin.

'She didn't like the low balls, especially to her backhand," Zvereva said. "I tried to keep the pace off. It helps a lot oo a fast surface. A lot of girls hit balls deep, flat and hard. Sometimes it's not wise to hit it harder.

Zvereva, ranked second in the world in doubles and 19th in singles, took a 5-0 lead in the rirst set as Rubin, who won only two points in the first four games, sprayed errors all over the University of Illinois-Chicago Pavilion supreme sur-

But 'trailing 0-5 and love-40 after back-to-back double faults, "Rubin lost her nerves and began to hit out in her first major tour final. The errors turned into winners as she fought off the three set points and then won three straight

"I couldn't get into the match early on, Rubin said. "I

going down love-five. I hit a good ball for a point and I said to myself. Why not go for it now. you've got nothing to lose?' And I won the next three games.

Zvereva finally won the set 6-3 when Rubin, who had fended off two more set points in the ninth game, hit long.

Zvereva broke for a 3-2 lead in the second set, but Rubin broke right back, tying the set with a top spin lob and then holding for a 4-3 lead when Zvereva twice hit long and made another backhand error.

Zvereva then made two tough volleys to win the next game. But Rubin, who hit serves timed at 166 kph, came up with three strong serves in a row to escape a 0-30 hole and take a 5-4 lead.

Zvereva held for 5-5, then broke Rubin at love with a backhand winner down the line and three straight Rubin errors. The third one a swinging volley into the next.

'I went up 5-4, I started making a lot of errors. I don't know what happened to me," said Rubin. who made 36 unforced errors in the 80-minute

"I could not afford to go 10 a third set," Zvereva said. "My body is tired from all the tennis have played this week. I

knew I had to close it out." And she did. Rubin made more errors to start the final game and Zvereva punctuated her first singles victory since 1990 with an ace. She had five for match and got 61 per cent

Martin wins ATP event

MEMPHIS, Tennessee (AFP) - Todd Martin, runner-up at last month's Australian Open. went one step better to beat fellow-American Brad Gilbert 6-4. 7-5 in Sunday's \$800,000 Memphis ATP tournament.

Martin, ranked ninth in the world, won the second pro title of his career and the \$110,500 first prize, by beating the twotime former champion 6-4, 7-5 in the final.

lost to Jim Courier in his first ahead, he lulls you to sleep ATP final but he was saved more. Whenever I was behind, from a rematch when the 39thanked Gilbert beat the world number-three in the quarter-

Martin, beaten by rete Sampras in the Australian Open final last month, outserved Gilbert and scored a big percentage of his points off Gilbert's

second serves. In the second-set Gilbert broke to lead 4-3, but Martin stormed back immediately and

went on to snatch victory on a Gilbert double-fault.

Gilbert has now lost seven straight finals since his last ATP triumph in 1990. After bis win Martin, who

had lost five straight finals since winning at Coral Springs, Florida, last May said: "It's nice to complete the job this time." "Brad lulls you to sleep with the softness of his balls. But when you make him hit a Twelve, months ago Martin and war war and accurate to lim Community and and accurate to limit and accurate to limit accurate

I felt more intensity. "I knew I would be at net more than he would be. I knew I had to be patient and when I I had the chance to come in. needed to hit a good approach shot and a good volley."

Gilbert said: "I wanted to slow him down because he likes the pace but my serve let me down. His future is looking really good. If he were a stock, you would want to buy some."

GOREN BRIDGE

WITH OMAR SHARIF & TANNAH HRISCH 1933 Tribune Media Bervicas, I

ANSWERS TO WEEKLY BRIDGE QUIZ

Q.1-Both vulperable, as South

spades is it doesn't sound all that invitational and could be made on a more balanced hand. Don't put pressure on partner. Take a shot at

South you hold:

Q.2.—East-West milnerable, as
South you hold:

AK9 CK97 AJ85 AQJ4
Partner opens the bidding with one
heart. What do you respond?
A.—There's a textbook bid that
describes a perfectly balanced hand
of 16-12 points with stoppers in tha
unbid suits. It's a jump to three no
trump. Make it.

Q.3 East-West vulnerable, as South you hold:

1065 TAQ5422 Q \$\infty\$ \$\infty

What do you bid now? A.—If you treated your hand as a minimum and tamely corrected to four hearts, you ere undervaluing its trick-taking potential. With a known oine-card fit, we would make a gentle move by cue-bidding four clubs, intending to wanting an 6--clubs, intending to venture no fur-ther than four hearts next, if we still have room for that hid.

Q.4.—Both vulnerable, as South you hold:

♠KQ4 ♥S7 ♦AK874 ♠1065 The bidding has proceeded:

North East South West 1 ° Pass 2 ° Pass 2 ° Pass ? What do you bid oow? A.—The auction has developed awkwardly. You can't rebid dia-

monds or support bearts, you have no second suil and, with the club no second and and, with the crup suit unatopped, any no-trump bid is out of the question. The solution is to lie a little and show your strong holding to spades, hoping partner will be able to bid no trump. Two spedes is the least of evils. Q.5-As South, vulnerable, you

≜AK984 7J10643 ♦K3 **♣**5 Your right-hand opponent opens the bidding with one club. What action do you take?

A.—If a cue-bid of two clubs specifically shows both majors and a hand of limited strength, this is not the holding for that bid—it is too strong defensively. Overcall one strong and home your set the context. spade and hope you get the oppor-tunity to show your hearts later. Don't make a takeout double—that action is not recitwo-suited hand.

Q.6-Neither vulnerable, as South you bold: ♠KQ9 ♥At0842 ↓103 ♠A94 The bidding has proceeded:
South West North East
1 ♥ Pass 1 ♣ Pass

What do you bid now?

A.—The choice lies between one no trump and two spades. With a weak doubleton in one suit and superb three-card support for partner's suit, the raise to two spades stands out by the proverbial mile.

Pippen emerges from Jordan's shadow to star in All-Star Game

MINNEAPOLIS (AP) - Scottie Pippen. in the shadow of Michael Jordan's spotlight for the first six years of his career, knew it was time to grab it himself in the NBA All-Star Game.

"Having Michael on our club really overshadowed guys like Horace Grant, B.J. Armstrong and myself. Pippen said late Sunday after leading the Eat to a 127-118 victory over the West. "It was time for us to step up as All-Stars a little more. I had my mind set to play much better than I played an past All-Star games."

Pippen, making his fourth All-Star appearance but his first since his superstar teammate on the Chicago Bulls retired last October, scored 29 points on 9-for-15 shooting and grabbed 11 rebounds to win most valuable

"I tried to assert myself a little more." Pippen said. "My skills are able to put me up among the elite players. I don't think I needed to go out today and prove anything to anybody.

East coach Lenny Wilkens, who this season became the second NBA coach with 900 career victories, had seven first-time All-Stars on his 12-man roster. But he went with his veterans when things got tight, especially Pippen, Mark Price and Patrick Ewing — who combined for 69

"I just like the attitude of the guys," Wilkens said. "They showcase, but they're true competitors. When the game is on the line, they want to win, Pippen, Mark and Patrick were steadying forces down the stretch.

Pippen, wearing fire-engine red shoes, averaged 9.3 points in his first three All-Star games. Despite his 29 points, he only scored two in the fourth quarter, but they were big — a baseline jumper with 2:10 left after the West pulled within two points.

"It was the shoes, Pippen joked about his performance. "Everybody was looking at my feet too much, I was shooting well and I just continued to let my shot flow.

The East took its largest lead, 103-90, in the first minutes of the fourth quarter, but the West rallied with a 17-5 run, closing to 108-107 with 7:17 left. Gary Pyton's six points and Daid Robinson's five keyed the comeback.

But the East regained control as New York temmates Ewing and John Starks combined to score the next nine East points for a 117-110

A basket by Clifford Robinson and a 3 pointer by John Stockton made it 117-115 before Pippen, after missing two free throws, connected on his baseline shot.

David Robinson and Hakeem Olajuwon shared scoring honours with 19 points each for the West, which trails the All-Star series 28-16. Ewing scored 12 of his 20 points in the fourth quarter and Price also had 20 for the East, which had 10 3-pointers to one for the West. Pippen

was 5-for-9 from that range. "He was in a zone," West coach George Karl



NBA Eastern Conference's Scottie Pippen of the Chicago Bulls goes to the bucket past Shawn Kemp of Seattle during the 2nd quarter of the All-Star Game (AFP photo)

said. "It's difficult when you're substituting a great deal to keep the same guy on him."
Shaquille O' Neal, the NBA's leading scorer

this season, had a miserable day for the East. missing 10 of 12 shots and seven of 11 free throws to finish with eight points. But he managed 10 rebounds,

"They were quadruple teaming me, triple-teaming me," O'Neal said. "I thought somebody was going to play me straight up, but It didn't happen. It means somebody respects me if they had to put four guys on me.

The West, down by eight at halftime, ralled in the third quarter, closing within four twice before Price hit a jumper and a 3-pointer in a span of 37 seconds, helping the East rebuild the margin to 101-90 going into the final 12 minutes,

Olajuwon dominated inside for the Watt early in the game with 12 points in the first ainc minutes on two dunks, two layups, a hook and two free throws.

The West led 25-23 late in the first period, but the East went on a spurt and led 72-64 at the

Germany, Norway and Russia reap Olympic victory

LILLEHAMMER, Norway (AP) — Germany, Norway and Russia struck gold at the Lillehammer Games Monday. The Uoited States reaped heartbreak.

- Germany's George Hackl became the first solo lugar to win back-to-back Olympic gold

In Thomas Alsgaard, a bright new Norwegian crosscountry star was born. On the speedskating oval,

Russia's Alexander Golubev set an Olympic record while leading his team to a 1-2 finish in the men's 500-metres sprint. For the Americans, woes began when their luge medal

hope crashed out of competition. Then, bard-luck Dan Janseo slipped during the speeds-kating sprint and failed for the fourth-straight Olympics to mine gold or even the lesser metals of silver and bronze. While vying athletes cele-

brated or raged on Lillehammer's ice and snow. "President Juan Antonio Samaranch headed for a real war zone -Sarajevo, the shattered site of the 1984 Winter Olympics.

During his visit to Bosnia, Samaranch wants "to renew the call for the 'Olympic truce' " the IOC said. Samaranch previously had urged Bosnia's warring factions to observe a cease-fire during the Feb. 12-27 Lillehammer Games.

On the third day of the games, the first gold medal went to Hackl, a 27-year-old Bavarian who began sledding at age 10. Supporters hoisted

arch-rival Austria's Markus Prock — faded by a breath on the last of four runs in the two-day men's single event. The German's Margin of victory was the equivalent of 13

to Finland's Mika Myllyla. Golubev's time of 36.33 econds in the 500 broke the old Olympic speedskating mark of 36.45 set by Uwe-Jens Mey of the former East Germany at Calgary io 1988. Another Russian, Sergei Klevcheoya also bested Mey's mark, winning the silver medal in 36.39. Manabu Horii of

Jansen, who holds the world record of 35.76 and every other speedskating bonour except an Olympic medal, slipped comiog out of the turn and had to brace himself against the ice with his left hand. His time of 36.68 put him well out of med-

"It's a bit of a shock to me," Jansen said. "I'm oot making excuses, but it's oot a place I've slipped before... I would have woo by quite a bit if I

members. She couldn't læar to him to their shoulders as his watch after her husbands mis-

inches (32.5 centimetres). In the men's 30-kilometre freestyle, the 22-year-old Alsgaard left the starting lice as an Olympic novice and finished a star, beating one of the favourites — countryman Bjorn Dahlie - for the gold. Dahlie, triple gold medalist at Albertville, France, two years ago, took silver. Bronze went

Japan won bronze in 36.53.

al contention.

didn't slip.

Jansen's wife, Robin, was in the stands with several family

World record wiped out

ter break.

Stuttgart.

BIRMINGHAM, England (AP) — Colin Jackson equalled, but did not break, the world indoor 60-metre hurdles record over the weekend. British track officials said

A review of the photo-finish priot revealed that Jackson's run was fractionally slower than the time originally judged at the Britain-United States meets at Glasgow's Kelvin Hall

Saturday. The difference was enough to round the Briton's time up to 7.36, instead of 7.35, to tie American Gres Foster's seven-year-old mark.

The error, said photo-finish judge Raymond Hutchinson in Monday's edition of the Times, came when he had only a rushed look at the print before the time was announced at the

of Bayer Leverkusen, losers at

Borussia Dortumund.

, again? said, "Why God ruel, she God can't be ta , day we'll said. "I'm sure we'll underfind out. One a stand.

ı slip, I

As soon as I s

rd-setting Despite bis performances orld Cup competition. ... American champion continues to be haunted by an interpret jinx. Six years ago this very date, his sister Jane Jansen Beres died of leukemia while Jansen was readying to compete at the Calgary Games. Then followed two 'olympic falls in 1988 and two failures to medal at

Albertville four years later. Probably his last medal chance will come in Friday's 1,000 metres race.

Host Norway, which already has won two gold and three silver medals to lead the Lillebammer medal race, was given new hope for an Alpine victory as Lasse Jius took Monday's downbill portion of the men's combined. He edged Americans Americans Kyle Rasmussen and Tommy Moe, gold medallist in Sunday's downhill.

At Lillehammer's Haakon ice hockey arena, a veteran German team outclassed a less experienced Norwegian six, 2-1. Germany went to 2-0 and the host Norwegians to 0-2 in Olympic pool play.
In other Hockey play Mon-

day, the Czech republic faced Austria, and the favoured Russians were pitted against the Finns, 3-1 upset winners over the Czechs on opening day. German lugar Hackl began

the third day of the gamese leading Prock by one-hundredth of a second, then fell behind by .48 of a second ion the third run. But Orock faltered on the final run and finished .013 of a second be--bind Hackl. -



Top European teams under pressure

PARIS (AFP) — Europe's top teams came under relentless

pressure over the weekend. Johan Cruyff's Barcelona were left shell-shocked after crashing to a 6-3 defeat at Real Zaragoza.

Bayern Munich threw away their chance of catching leaders Eintracht Frankfurt when they were inexplicabley beaten 3-1 at home by modest Stuit-

Only eight first division teams managed to reach the last sixteen of the French Cup competition.

And while spress, went on goal-scoring spree AC Milan found themselves struggling to

score a 1-0 home win against

to ten players. Barcelona's humiliation began when Real Zaragoza slotted home four goals in a confidence-destroying firsthalf. Argentinian Fernando Caceres was on larget for the home side in the fifth minute. Jose Gay made it 2-0 a quarter

entrance. Possibility unfurnished.

of an hour later and Juan Esnaider had scored two more before the break.

Barcelona's Brazilian Frontrunner Romario had scored for the visitors in the 31st minute and things looked fractionally brighter when De-nmark's Michael Laudrup cut the arrears further. But Grancisco Higuera and Uruguayan Gustavo Poyet added more goals before Romario scored his second goal of the match.

Meanwhile Real Madrid. themselves in crisis only a week ago and with coach Benito Floro facing the axe, leapfrogged Cruyff's men into second place with a 1-0 win over Real Oviedo.

Cremonese — a team reduced That win follows last week's 2-0 triumph over league leaders Deportivo la Coruna. who themselves bounced back Sunday by beating Sevilla 2-0. Bebeto scoring one minute before the break and Fran a minute

Deportivo are now on 34

points to Real's 29 and Baffets lona's 28.

Goals were few and far hetween at AC Milan despite the fact that the leaders were playiog a Cremonese team requed to ten men after 40 mlnutes when Ettore Ferraroni was sent off. Marco Simone eventually earned his side their victory with a 73rd minute goal. But it was far from con-

vincing performance. It was a very different story for Lazio and Juventus who hit nine goals between them.

Paul Gascoigne put the finishing touches to a superh performance by scoring a spectacular fourth goal for Lazio against Cagliari — Giuseppe Signori having put the result beyond doubt with a hat-trick. Juventus remained Milan's closest rivals, five points be-

hind, after beating bottom

team Lecce 5-1. In the French Cup Marseille and Monaco both won all first division ties away from home - Marseille seeing off Sochaux 1-0 and Monaco beating Toulouse 2-0. They were joined in the last

sixteen by Auxerre. Lens and Montpellier, who all had comfor the wins over second divisien opponents — but it was tough and go for some of the other big names. League leaders Paris St. Germain were pushed into extra-time by northern amateur side Avioo. Nantes

off third division Lorient and Bordeaux scraped through on penalries at secood division Le Mans. Lyon were less accurate when it came to taking their spot kicks. They crashed out to

also needed. extra-time to see

second division Laval in another penalty shoot-out. Metz didn't even get into extra-time. They were thrashed 3-1 at third division

Chatellerault. In Germany, Eintracht Frankfurt edged ahead at the top when the Bundesliga went back into action after the winBEAUTICIAN/DIETICIAN/NUTRITION COUNSELOR REQUIRED

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Ghali to meet Assad today

GENEVA (R) - United Nations Secretary General Boutros Ghali will discuss the stalled-Middle East peace process with Syrian Fresident Hafez Al Assad in Geneva on Saturday, U.N. officials said. "Boutros Ghali will meet Assad on Saturday, U.N. officials said. "Boutros Ghali will meet Assad on Saturday afternoon." an official at the U.N. European headquarter: cid on Friday. The meeting between the U.N. chief, an Egyptian, and the Syrian president will take place a day before a summit in Geneva between Mr. Assad and U.S. President Bill Clinton. (see page 2)

Zhirlnovsky in angry clash at buffet

MOSCOW (R! — Russia's ultra-nationalist leader Vladimir Zhirinovsky was struck in the face in an angry clash in the buffet of the country's new parliament on Friday over who should be served first, witnesses said. Deputy Bela Deninsenko said she gave Mr. Zhirinovsky first aid after he was hit by a Mark Goryachev. a deputy with a long history of animosity towards the Liberal Democrat leader. Mr. Zhirinovsky was apparently not seriously hurt. Witnesses told Reuters a heated row broke out when Mr. Goryachev, who had been waiting some time for service in the canteen, was incensed by the sight of waiters running to attend Mr. Zhirinovsky as soon as he entered the room. "Remarks were exchanged and the two men approached each other closely in an angry frame of mind," one witness said. Interfax quoted a witness as saving Mr. Zhirinovsky screamed at Mr. Gorvachev: "Get out of here while you're in one piece."
TASS said Mr. Zhirinovsky, borne to electoral success in December's elections to the newly-created Duma, told Mr. Goryachev he would be the first to be jailed when he came to power. Critics brand Mr. Zhirinovsky a fascist. He denies the

Bhutto accuses mother of 'male prejudice'

NEW YORK (AFP) - Pakistan's Prime Minister Benazir Bhutto rejected her mother's demand to be restored to the leadership of Pakistan's ruling party, accusing her of siding with her son out of "male prejudice." the New York Times said Friday. "I bave fought too long to save the party from general (Mohammad) Zia and all my father's opponents to let my own family. in a fit of male prejudice, undermine or destroy it," she said in an interview from Islamabad with the newspaper, She said she ousted her mother. Nusrat Bbutto, from the leadership of the Pakistan People's Party because of her insistence that Mir Murtaza Bhutto, the brother who was then in exile in Syria, run in more than 20 constituencies as an anti-organisation candidate in elections last October.

U.S. report condemns Peres over scandal

TEL AVIV (AFP) - A U.S. report has strongly criticised Israeli Foreign Minister Shimon Peres for his role in the sale of arms to Iran in the 1980s, the Israeli daily Haaretz reported Friday. The report by U.S. special prosecutor Lawrence Walsh, due to be published soon, criticises the then Prime Minister Petes especially for his connections with two Israelis directly involved in the arms-for-hostages scheme - his relative Al Schimmer and businessman Yaakov Nimrodi. The report also criticises the current prime minister. Yitzhak Rabin, who was defence minister at the time. Haaretz said a special advisor to Mr. Rabin, reserve General Rafael Vardui, had been given the task of preparing Israel's response to the charges contained in the report.

Russia, Israel in crime fight pact

MOSCOW (AFP) - Russia and Israel have agreed to cooperate in fighting organised crime, under an agreement signed here by their interior ministers, Itar-Tass news agency reported Friday. A key provision is to post liaison officers in each country "to avoid lengthy bureaucratic procedures," said Russian Interior Minister Viktor Yerin. His Israeli counterpart Moshe Shahal denied that a Russian mafia was expanding its activities in Israel, as Russian press reports have said lately. Russian immigrants gave the police no more trouble than others, he said.

France pleads for Iranian priest

PARfS (AFP) - France on Friday pleaded for the life of Iranian Christian priest Mehdi Dibaj, 59, threatened with execution for converting to Christianity from Islam. Lucette Michaux-Chevri, minister-delegate for humanitarian affairs and human rights, appealed to Iranian authorities through the French embassy in Tehran on behalf of Mr. Dihaj, who was to have been hanged this Friday for apostasy. Mr. Machaux-Chevn expressed the French government's "emotion" over Mr. Dibaj's sentence and deplored persecution of Iran's religious minorities. The Dibaj case was publicised Thursday by the Evangelical group open doors which said Mr. Dibaj had converted to Christianity 4 years ago at the age of 19. Under Sharia law, enforced in Iran since 1979, any Muslim apostate is liable to the death penalty.

Bombay doctor arrested for train blast

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NEW DELHf (AFP) - Doctor from Bombay was among 13 people arrested for a series of train bombings on Dec. 6 which killed one person and injured 15 others, the Press Trust of findia said Friday. Mohammad Jalees Ansari, the alleged mastermind hehind the blast, which coincided with the first anniversary of the racing of the Babri Mosque by Hindu fanatics in Ayodhya, was arrested in downtown Bombay. police said. They said 12 other people, including Dr. Ansari's brother Mohammad Likayat Syeduddin, were arrested after joint raids on several hideouts in Bombay and the northern city of Lucknow by police and the federal Central Bureau of Investigation. Several sophisticated explosives, detonators and revolvers were found in Dr. Ansari's office in Bombay's Agripada district, a spokesman said. The doctor allegedly had links with Pakistani intelligence and had passed on "vital"

Carey launches appeal for Sudan

LONDON (R) — The spiritual head of the Church of England launched an appeal Friday to provide food and medicines to Sudan following his controversial visit to the divided country. 'I came back very moved by the plight of the people I saw and I decided to launch an ecumenical appeal," the archhishop of Canterbury, Dr. George Carey, said on BBC Radio Four's Today programme. Cardinal Basil Hume, head of the Catholic Church in Britain, and other church leaders were also cooperating in the project. Sudan expelled Britain's ambassador after Archbishop Carey declined to visit the capital. Khartoum, and confined his trip earlier this month to the rebel held south where most of Sudan's Christians live. Britain ordered Sudan's envoy out in retaliation.

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE **VOCATIONAL TRAINING CORPORATION**

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Afghan foes use jets to pound each other

KABUL (Agencies) - Afghan state and rival faction jets bombed each other's positions in Kabul on Friday, prior to a fierce artillery duel that raged four hours non-stop in the eastern suburbs of the

Lone jets of faction leader, ex-communist General Abdul Rashid Dostum, made at least three sorties over Kabul Friday - shortly after midnight, and around 5:00 a.m. (0030 GMT) and 8:30 a.m. local time — while a state jet was said to bave bombed Dostum bases at 9:30 a.m.

A Lone jet again circled . Kabul at 2:00 p.m. and 3:00 p.m. but with the prevailing artillery bombardment it was difficult to tell which faction it belonged to, and where it dropped its bomb load.

In the nighttime Dostum raids the Kabul sky was illuminated by streaming arcs of scarlet tracer fire as Defence Ministry anti-aircraft guns sprayed cannon shells at the attacker, which at midnight locals say dropped a deadly cluster-bomb on the dormant capital,

The military duty officer at Kabul airport said the Dostum kabul airport said the Dostum jet raids were not effective against bases manned by forces loyal to President Burhanud-

din Rabbani. "These raids are designed to weaken the morale of the civilians. They cannot inflict heavy easualties on our military of forces," said duty officer General Mohammad Sawar Ayubzai.

A Russian-trained jet pilot himself, Gen. Ayubzai claimed Gen. Dostum's main airbases in Mazar-e-Sharif and Sbebharghan in northern Afghanistan had been knocked out by pro-Rabbani jets.
He said Gen. Dostum had

only two or three Russian-made Sukhoi Su-22 jets that were operational, and which take off from a makeshift desert runway near Shebhargban, the capital of Gen. Dostum's native Jawzjan province.

More than 4,000 people have been wounded and an estimated 400 killed since the fighting exploded Jan. 1 in the Afghan capital.
Little ground has been won

or lost, and none of the faetions appears capable of delivering a decisive blow. The factions have been battling for . control of the capital since 1992, when they ousted a communist government.

They have killed some 10,000 people, destroyed much of the city, and kept Kabul's hospitals overflowing.

More than half of Afghan's

doctors are believed to have left the country during the 14year-war. Those that have remained have proved remark-ably dedicated, working endless hours for little pay.



An elderly Afghan seeks cover with his 14-month-old nephew as rival forces Friday continued flerce battles in Kabul (AFP

Most international groups,' including the United Nations, have pulled out due to the danger. But the international committee for the Red Cross.

based in Geneva, and Medecines sans Frontieres (Doctors without Borders), based in Brussels, have remained on the

Yemeni tribe releases 2 kidnapped Westerners

SANAA (Agencies) — A Briton and a Canadian held hostage by tribesmen in North Yemen for 12 days were released Friday, the general manager of the Yemen-Hunt Oil Co, said.

George Slaughter said the two men — 49-year-old Peter Jackson from Exter. England, and 43-year-old George Hawkins from Vancouver, Canada - were released along with their helicopter at around 3 p.m. (1200 GMT).

Mr. Hawkins piloted the helicopter back to Sanaa. according to Mr. Slaughter.

understandable as they've been under strain, but they have been treated as best as could be possible under the

circumstances," Mr. Slaughter told the Association Press in a telephone interview.

Mr. Hawkins, Mr. Jackson

and four Yemeni employees were kidnapped Jan. 3 hy Khowlan tribesmen in a desolate region of norhern Yemen. They were seized when they flew to the region to investigate a pipeline bumbing.

apparently carried out to lure Westerners into a trap. The Yemenis were immediately freed, but they stayed with the two Westerners, one shuttling back and forth with the tribe's demands.

Shudaid, the tribe was demanding fees for the pipeline to be spent on more services, such as schools and medical clinics.

from the central government. However, diplomats believed the abductions were more likely politically motivated. Mr. Slaughter said no de-

mands were directly made to his company, a subsidiary of the Dallas-based Hunt Oil Co., and the negotiations had gone on between the authorities and the kidnappers. Representatives of Yemen

Hunt wete on site with the Yemeni authorities, meeting any needs of the two men. Journalists who visited the

site reported that the two men were guarded by 30 to 40 Yemeni tribesmen, some of whom brandished Kalashnikov assault rifles. While in captivity, the two men said they were being moved from village to

Mr. Slaughter said he did not know what the authorities had promised the kidnappers, if anything, to secure the re-lease of the two men and did not expect to find out on Fri-

"We don't know the circumstances of their release. We'll find out later," he said. We were not involved with any negotiations."

Mr. Jackson and Mr. Hawkins arrived in the capital along with two Yemenis, who were held with them in Al Ayamania, in the Maareb region some 100 kilometres east of Sanaa.

Several other foreigners have been abducted in recent months by tribes trying to eope with serious economic and political problems.

Egyptian cleric calls plot informer 'Satan'

NEW YORK (R) — Blind and unable to speak more than a few words of English, Egyptian eleric Sheikh Omar Abdul Rahman is adamant these days about acting as his own lawyer in his U.S. bombing and assassination conspiracy trial.

In an interview at the federal prison where he is being beld. the man accused of wanting to blow up the United Nations and taking part in a conspiracy to kill Egyptian leader Hosni Mubarak says he wants nothing more than to crossexamine his chief accuser when the trial starts next September.

The accuser is informant Emad Salem, whom Sheikh Abdul Rahman calls "Satan." He says he wants to guide Mr. Salem "to the truth" and he spends hours in his cell going over braille transcripts of Mr. Salem's taped conversations with the Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI), looking for lies and clues to Mr. Salem's "materialism" and betrayals of Islam.

The cleric says he wants no

harm to come to Mr. Saleni, denying the informer's claim that the sheikh has issued a fatwa to his followers to kill

"I pray for Emad Salem to have a long life. He just makes up stories about me unjustly," the sheikh said, adding, "it is a duty that people stay away from him. They should take away his children. If he has a Muslim wife she should leave

He adds that Mr. Salem has strayed from Islam, lied to Allah and made a mockery out of the Korean. Salem is Satan, an

The federal judge in the case denied the sheikh's request to have activist lawyer William Kunstler represent him and he decided to act as his own attorney rather than pay the \$250,000 another lawyer was

Sheikh Abdul Rahman. 55. made his comments through an Arabie translator during a twohour interview with Reuters at the Manhattan federal prison Wednesday where he and I4 others are being held awaiting trial in September. Four of his alleged followers

are already on trial for setting off bombs at the World Trade Centre last February, killing six people and injuring 1,000. The cleric has denied involvement in that or in any conspiracy or murder plot. Mr. Salem, 43, is credited

with helping the FBI foil what the government said was a plot to blow up the United Nations. tunnels and the federal building housing the FBI in New

A former Egyptian army officer and intelligence agent, Mr. Salem secretly tanerecorded bis conversations with all the defendants and his conversations with FBI agents. Sheikh Abdul Rahman strongly denied Mr. Salem's claims that he "sobcited" the informer in late 1991 "to murder the president of Egypt,"

"This a big lie, just as he made another lie in which he

Secretary of State Warren

Christopher would try to rear-

range his schedule in order to

make a short trip to Norway 10

Moscow with President Clin-

ton, called Mr. Holst's con-

tributions to world peace "his-

toric," crediting him with

creating the environment

which led to the breakthrough

agreement between the PLO

Israeli killed

Mr. Christopher, who is in

attend the funeral.

Hosni Mnbarak.

said I gave a fatwa to bomb the United Nations. Why would I ask Salem to murder Mubarak when other Muslims had already warned me in 1991 that Salem was a spy sent by Egyp-tian intelligence?" the cleric

The sheikh promised "a hig surprise for everybody" at the trial. "I will talk about bombs," he said without elaboration. Schikh Abdul Rahman says

the Salem trascripts hack up his contention that the government knew in advance of the bombing of the World Trade Centre. "Have you seen the bomb that blew up? and both of you know that we could have stopped that. I'm very sad because we wasted millions of dollars," Sheikh Abdul Rahman quotes Mr. Salem as telling his FBI bandlers on March

Sheikh Abdul Rahman said he wants to prove at his trial that Islam is not a "terrorist"

Somali clan leaders continue peace talks

MOGADISHU (AFP) -Peace talks between clansmen of factional leader Mohammad Farah Aideed and those of his enemy, self-styled President Ali Mahdi Mohammad, went into a second day here Friday. General Aideed, meanwhile, continued negotiations in the Kenyan capital Nairohi with representatives of the group of I2 factions led by Mr.

Ali Mabdi that oppose him. Gen. Aideed's aides said here. The United Nations, heavily eriticised for getting peacekeepers embroiled in clashes with Gen. Aideed's militia that cost the lives of more than 70 U.N. soldiers. was officially involved in neither the Nairobi, nor the Moga-

dishu talks. But Gen. Aideed has met U.N. envoy Richard Bogosian in Nairobi, an American official in Mogadishu said. Ahmad Darman, a member

of the central committee of Gen. Aideed's Somali National Alliance (SNA) faction, urged the U.N. to arrange another national reconciliation conference to bring Somalia's warring factions together. But he said the U.N. should

stop meddling in negotiations and leave the Somalis to work out a settlement without outside interference.

"We hope the Nairobi talks will pave the way for a national reconciliation conference which might be held in Moga-dishu," Mr. Darman told reporters.

About 175 members of Gen. Aideed's Habr Gedir clan and Mr. Ali Mahdi's Ahgal group held a second day of eloseddoor talks at the Kah Hotel in Mr. Al Mahdi's north Mogadishu enclave Friday. Chaired by a prominent Islamic leader, the imam of Hirab,

the meeting brought together traditional clan chiefs, religious leaders, military officers and leaders of youth groups, conference officials said. The negotiations were expected to announce the out-

come of the talks, which were preceded by a month of informal consultations, when they end Saturday. Senior U.N. officials who

were privately sceptical about previous attempts to broker agreements among Somalia's 15 warring clan-based factions said they sensed a greater willingness by the warlords to lay down their arms.

"They are under pressure from their own rank and file,' said one U.N. official. "The wariords themselves

have done well out of the fighting, but the fighters are

Gen. Aideed's faction is estimated to have lost hundreds of men in four months of fighting with U.S. and U.N. forces in Mogadishu before the U.N. dropped efforts to arrest him in

In other developments, a U.N. spokesman said a Somali had been shot dead during an anti-U.N. protest in a coastal town south of Mogadishu U.N. officials had earlier

said no one was killed and denied reports on pro-Aideed Radio Mogadishu that two people had died when a demonstration outside a residence of the U.N. Operation in Somali (UNOSOM) in Merca, about 60 kilometres southwest here, turned violent.

Hillary, Chelsea Clinton arrive In Moscow

MOSCOW (R) — President Bill Clinton's wife Hillary and danghter Chelsea arrived Friday in Moscow where he is bolding a summit with Russian leader Boris Yeltsin, ITAR 15 Lebanon to TASS news agency said. The ghead - Hat two were met at Sheremetyevo pnme Airport by Valentina Cher. 1 (R) pnme nomyrdin, wife of Prime in Hand made Minister Viktor Chernomy in that Pope John rdin.

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Clinton plays sax for Yeltsin

MOSCOW (R) — Amateur musician Bill Clinton played the saxopbone for Russian President Boris Yeltsin during a three-bour dinner with a 24course menu including exotic delicacies like lip of moose. For the second time on his six-nation, eight-day European tour, Mr. Clinton picked up a saxophone and played My Funny Valentine and Summertime, he played the same tunes in Prague for Czech Republic President Vaclav Havel. In another sign that President Clinton and President Yeltsin are getting along well, Mr. Yeltsin invited Clinton, his wife Hillary and 13-year-old daughter Chelsea to stay overnight in the Kremlin Friday. It will be the first time since 1972 that a U.S. president has stayed overnight in the Kremlin. Richard Nixon was the guest of Leonid Brehznev back. then during a summit to sign an arms control accord. There was plenty of serious business at the dinner at Mr. Yeltsin's dacha southeast of Moscow, but it turned to play when Mr. Yeltsin presented Mr. Clinton with a small, blue porcelain figurine of the U.S. leader. It. showed Mr. Clinton with one hand raised, "signifying his status as a politician," and the other holding a saxophone, a senior U.S. official said. That turned the conversation to the saxophone and Mr. Yeltsia. she we Iranians, just happened to have one on hand. Mr. Clinton began that ing in one room while the string quartet playing in thicks Arabs. another room picked up his tune and they started an impromptu jam session after which Mr. Clinton played his two songs. The menu included fresh caviar, pickled. mushrooms, stuffed carp, asnd lip of moose. "It was, uh, it was good. It was unusual," said the official. Was there any drinking? "Only symbolic and social and very much in the spirit of the event," said the official. On offer were vodka, wine and plenty of mineral

Duchess of York jokes about love and waistlines

HONG KONG (AP) - The

Duchess of York joked about teenage romance and her waistline Thursday, and told runaway Hong Kong kids to get on with life and really go with it." Looking tanned and relaxed during a brief visit to the British colony, she toured a home for runaways and provoked squeals of laughter from a group of teenage girls by temenitally asking: "What do you think of the boys?" One girl said she liked them, to which the duckess remarked: "Me too." Wearing a cream and dark blue suit, the duchess sipped tea but refused biscuits. "No thanks," she said, adding as she patted ber hips: "too big already." The former Sarah Ferguson. estranged wife of Prince Andrew, urged the youngsters to get the most out of life, saying: "Just remember that there's great bope and it's a great world." Earlier, she visited a centre for Down's syndrome sufferers in Kowloom and was greeted with a bouquet of flowers, watched by about 100 onlookers who clapped and exclaimed "ho leng"

"she's very pretty." Asked by reporters if she was enjoying Hong Kong, she re-plied: "Very good, thank yon." "The people are very nice and very welcoming." she

Mistrial declared in Beverly Hills murder case

LOS ANGELES (R) - A judge has declared a mistrial in the murder case against one of the two Menendez brothers who admitted killing their wealthy Beverly Hills parents. Superior Court Judge Stanley Weisberg made the ruling after a jury trying the case against Erik Menendez, 23, said for the third time it was hopelessly deadlocked.

Bilaterals on Jan. 24

(Continued from page 1)

Washington for substantive exchanges on how to make progress in the Syrian and Lebanese tracks.

Following Mr. Clinton's meeting with President Hafez Al Assad in Geneva. the United States bas invited the heads of delegations of all the tracks to meet in Washington to discuss how to make the peace talks more streamlined and iess structured.

Ms. Shelly said Mr. Ross would join Clinton's party in Moscow in advance of the talks with Mr. Assad in Geneva. She was unaware of "any firm decision" for Mr. Ross to travel onward to the Middle East. An Arab diplomat said:

"Our delegation ehief will meet with the Israelis on Jan. 24." Israeli sources reported Thursday they also expected the talks to begin that day. Privately, U.S. officials said Jan. 24 was an excellent bet.

Holst to be buried on Jan. 22 (Continued from ; sige 1) Departure in Washington said

he had had a normal night's sleep, he told the journalists. But, he added enthusiastically. the importance of the work kept him going.

Will Mr. Holst's death have any effect on the ongoing peace negotiations between the PLO and Israel? Mr. Holst was instrumental in giving hirth to an opportunity for peace, but the success of the process now depends more or less entirely on the negotiating parties' will to solve the remaining problems, say Norwe-

gian observers and analysts. PLO's representative Kitmitto. speaking on Norwegian Television Thursday, said that he believes the parties will wish to continue the process in the spirit of Mr. Holst and base their negotiations on the prin-

ciples which he laid down. On Tuesday, only two days before his tragic death. Mr. Holst was proposed as a candidate for next year's Nobel Peace Prize. A spokesman for the State

(Continued from page 1) several rockets at the house, and soldiers kept firing until dawn, the neighbours said.

and Israel.

The Gaza attack was at the Erez crossing point into Israel, the army identified the Israeli victim as Grigory Fayzi, 37, a Russian immigrant living in the southern city of Ashkelon and the assailant as Yousef Hamad Salim, 21. of Gaza City's Rim-21 neighbourhood.

(Continued from page 1)

Ukraine signs nuclear accord

closer cooperation between

NATO and the former Soviet hloc countries while putting full membership in the alliance which is shielded by the U.S. nuclear umbrella - on hold for at least several years. U.S. Secretary of State War-

ren Christopher and his Russian counterpart Andrei Kozyrev also signed a packet of agreements that notably pave the way for greater Russian access to U.S. markets and reaffirm U.S. support for Russia's hid to join the GATT world trade body.

Mr. Clinton praised Yeltsin's assurances on pushing ahead with economic reform and stated: "I think that can free up hillions of dollars in the next few months' in fresh financial help for Russia from international lending institu-

The U.S. president, who popped into Moscow shops during his visit to tell Russian people he was here to support

them, acknowledged that Mr. Yeltsin needed to soften his economic policy to overcome

the resentment prompted by painful reforms. The West is worried about the poor performance by refor-

mers in last month's parliamentary elections and the strong showing by ultra-nationalist Vladimir Zhirinovsky, whose fiery message appealed to weary, disillusioned Russians.

Mr. Clinton said: "We have to care very much about the greatness and potential of this country and to be sensitive. We will be heavily involved in all this in ways that I believe will begin to affect the ordinary Russian people in a positive

"That's what I was trying to communicate when I was walking in the streets in Moscow, shaking hands with people and talking to them and listening to them.

Mr. Clinton is not offering Russia any fresh money.

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